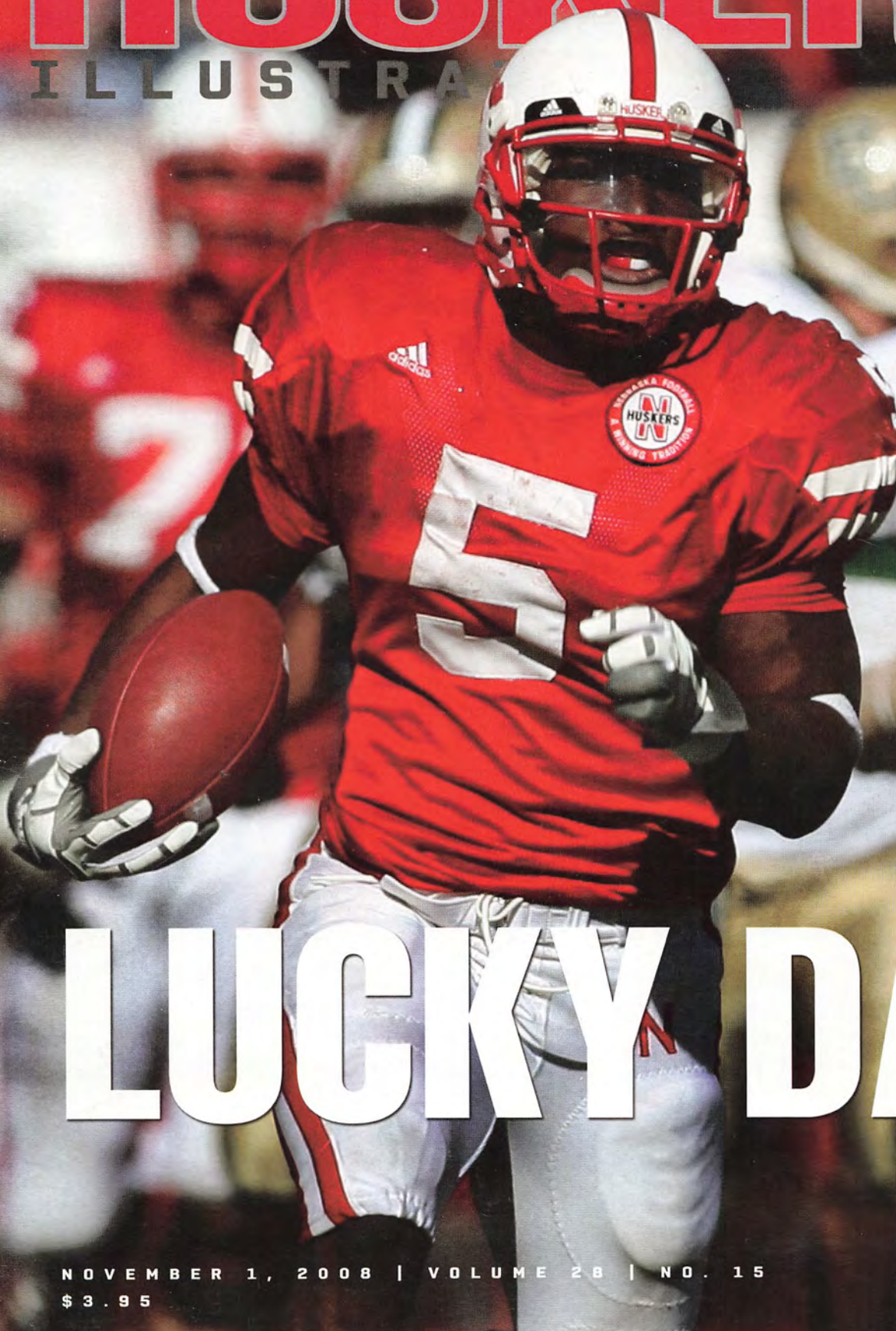


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THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

# HUSKERS

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The Oklahoma recap/Kansas preview will be mailed on Monday, Nov. 3.  
Check for updates at [huskersillustrated.com](http://huskersillustrated.com).

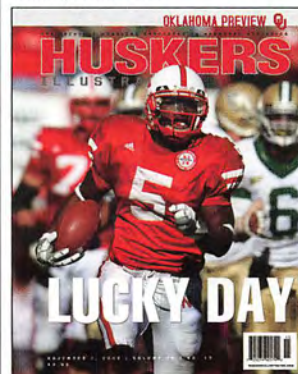
## HUSKERS

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### ON THE COVER

Senior I-back Marlon Lucky compiled turned in an impressive performance against the Bears, rushing for 83 yards and catching 3 passes for 82 yards, including a spectacular one-handed grab.

Photo by Scott Bruhn





## TWISTS & TURNS

### Baylor game featured tricks and treats



**FOOTBALL GAMES** have a life of their own. Each creates its own identity and over the course of 60 minutes. Most close games can be narrowed down to a couple of plays that decided the outcome.

Nebraska's 32-20 win over Baylor at Memorial Stadium on Saturday was anything but normal. It would be impossible to narrow this game down to a couple of plays.

When we were deciding our turning point of the game (page 18), we settled on Larry Asante's sack of Robert Griffin on fourth-and-4 on Nebraska's 31-yard line in the fourth quarter.

But we had a number of choices.

This game had a bag full of tricks and treats, including a blocked field goal, a missed field goal, a missed extra point, a roughing the kicker penalty, personal fouls (okay, not a surprise), a safety, a goal line fumble and blundering officials.

Baylor shocked the early risers at Memorial Stadium by jumping out to a 14-7 lead in the first quarter, thanks to three plays over 40 yards, including runs of 40 and 47 yards by quarterback Robert Griffin.

Late in the first half, the Huskers had a Cody Glenn sack wiped away because of a facemask penalty, which would have forced third-and-17. Instead, the penalty moved Baylor to midfield and sparked a touchdown three plays later.

But, as I mentioned, this was no normal game and Ndamukong Suh blocked the extra point.

Fast forward to the third quarter, where

Baylor was looking to add to its 20-17 lead, only to miss a 19-yard field goal.

The Huskers took advantage and drove 80 yards on 12 plays and took a 24-20 lead on Joe Ganz's 9-yard pass to Nate Swift.

Another key moment came when a 54-yard punt return from Swift to start the fourth quarter was wiped away by a roughing the kicker penalty.

But Nebraska bounced back and ended the drive with Larry Asante's fourth down sack (more on page 18) and promptly scored four plays later. In keeping with the oddity trend, Alex Henery missed the extra point for the first time in 78 tries.

As I said, anything but normal.

It appeared as if the game was about to be on ice with the Huskers facing second-and-goal on the Baylor 3-yard line only to have Quentin Castille fumble at the goal line.

Gloom and doom, right? Wrong.

Harvard, Neb., native Colton Koehler dropped Griffin in the end zone on the next play for a safety. Didn't see that one coming did you?

As for the blown calls by the officials (on both sides), I'll reserve my criticism for Big 12 officials when I have more room to properly dissect their issues.

So other than that, it was just your typical, run-of-the-mill Saturday at Memorial Stadium. Nobody said this was going to be easy. **N**

*Send us your comments or story ideas to [huskersillustrated@gmail.com](mailto:huskersillustrated@gmail.com).*

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# Big Red Mailbag

**SEND US YOUR LETTERS!!** Huskers Illustrated loves to hear from its readers. Have an opinion to share about a story in this issue? Send us a letter. Have an opinion about the Huskers? Drop us a line. Want to share a photo from your last Husker game? We'll take it. **IF WE PRINT YOUR LETTER, WE'LL SEND YOU A SPECIAL HUSKER GIFT!** Send digital photos and letters to [huskersillustrated@gmail.com](mailto:huskersillustrated@gmail.com) and your regular snapshots and letters to HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED, 7755 S. 23rd St., Lincoln, NE 68512.



## VOLLEYBALL BREAK DOWN

Love your new format.

When the football team went in the tank we started watching and now prefer volleyball.

However, most of us are not familiar with the terms and rules of the game. Could you give a brief description of positions and restrictions. The announcers are good but assume listeners know as much as they do.

**Wes Barton**

'56 UNL

*Wes, I'm not sure how anyone could give up football, but volleyball is one of my favorites as well.*

*You have a great idea – maybe you can convince Coach Cook to host a Volleyball 101 Clinic in the meantime.*

## BLEEDING RED

First of all I want to say thank you for all you do for us husker fans. You have put together a magazine for all of us that is just fantastic. I read the magazine

every Tuesday and I just love it. I especially love your additions on recruiting.

The best thing besides the game on Saturday is the recruiting and the kids that are coming to make this program a better program. There is nothing you could do to make

this magazine more special than it already is. I also love the report card of the previous game. That is one of the top things I look for in each issue. I just encourage you to keep up the good work with everything you do for the fans.

**Jacob Oswald**

## Cornhead Corner

definition: **CORNHEAD**, corn-head – noun

1. a person with an extreme and often unusual enthusiasm or zeal for the University of Nebraska Cornhusker athletic program. Side effects may manifest in abnormal collections of Husker memorabilia, obsessive desires to attend Nebraska sporting events and paranoid delusions that every season should result in a national championship. This compulsive behavior can be contagious and is often a serious irritant for fans of the University of Missouri or Colorado.



**CHRIS COTTER** and his family – wife Sandi (not pictured), and kids Ashley and Josh, fly their Nebraska flag proud in Pueblo, Colo. A native of Hebron, Neb., Chris has been a Husker fan since grade school.

"My earliest memory of Nebraska football is my father watching the Nebraska-Oklahoma game after Thanksgiving," Chris said. "I attended my first Nebraska game at the Sun Bowl in El Paso in 1980 and have attended at least one game in Lincoln every season for the past 15 years."

His Big Red Room is a labor of 20 years of collecting and includes numerous autographed pieces. Chris' favorite items include a football signed by the team in 2006 prior to the USC game and a "an autographed picture of Cory Schlesinger diving into the endzone in Miami that plays Kent Pavelka's call when a button is pushed."

**ARE YOU A CORNHEAD?** Send us your story along with a photo to [huskersillustrated@gmail.com](mailto:huskersillustrated@gmail.com) and you may be featured in an upcoming issue of Huskers Illustrated.

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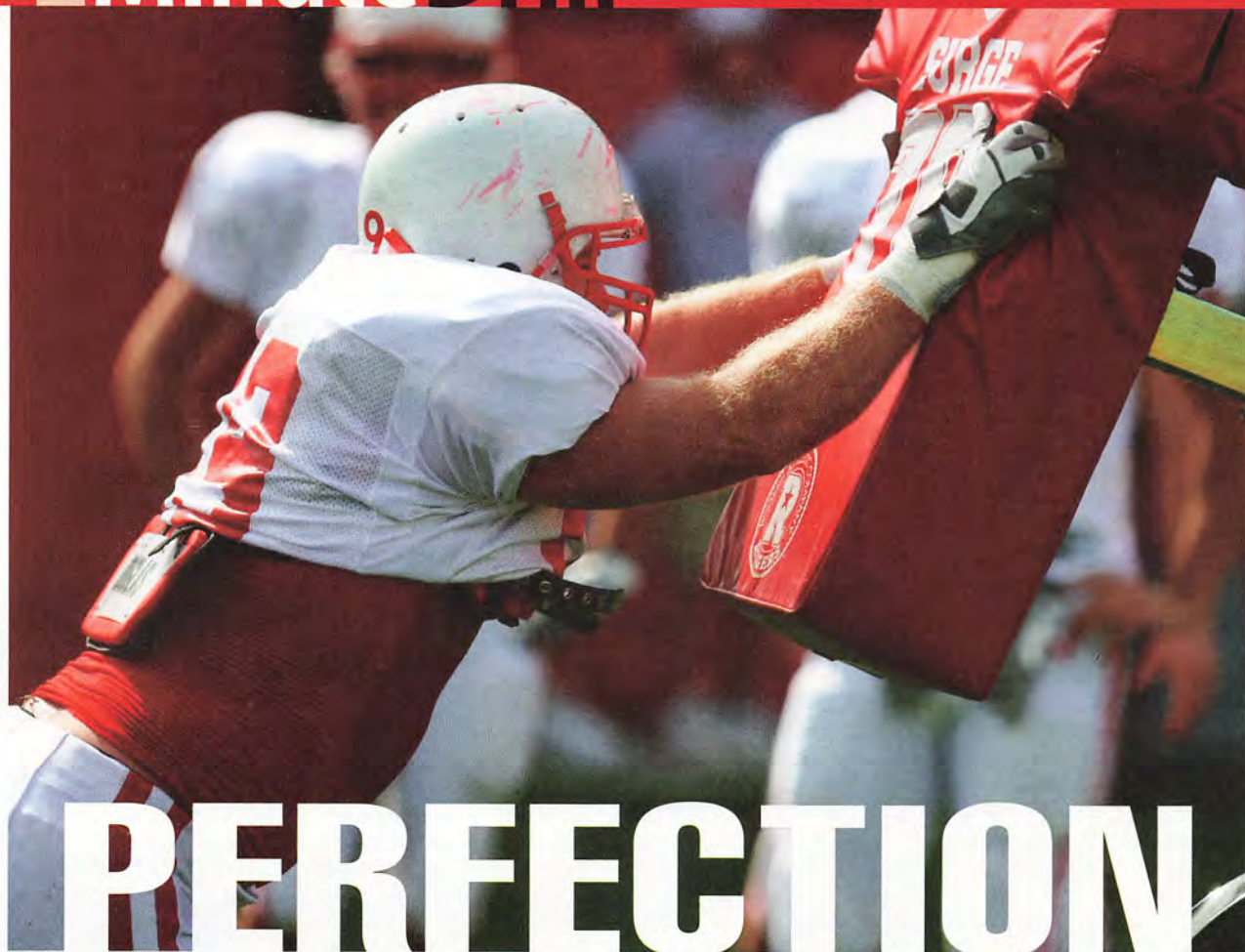
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# 2MinuteDrill



## PERFECTION

**"PRACTICE DOESN'T MAKE PERFECT; PERFECT PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT." VINCE LOMBARDI**

**B**O PELINI is a perfectionist. And no matter how hard his team tries, it's never going to be perfect. That's the reality of the situation. Players are going to make mistakes.

But Pelini, like any successful coach or athlete, continues to strive for perfection, which means by the end of a week of practice, "you could usually put me in a rubber room," he said recently. "I've always been that way because I want perfection, I really do.

"I want it on the practice field. I want it heading into games. It drives me crazy in practice. It makes me more crazy when I watch game film. It is what it is."

So even though perfection comes in bits and pieces, "you still have to keep working and just keep striving, once again, to develop

the mindset ... the players develop our mindset, my mindset, the staff's mindset that you're going to practice the way you play.

"You're going to look for perfection every single day. That's the only way I know to guard against having breakdowns on Saturday, is to do it during the week."

He has learned that "when you have breakdowns during the week, that's who you are." And who you are individually, as well as a team, is apparent during games.

The pursuit of perfection is "a daily thing," Pelini said after the three consecutive losses carrying over to the start of Big 12 play. "It is a process to become a good football team. And we're not there yet because we're not making enough plays to finish games and win games against quality opponents. I know

that's what it's going to take."

It also takes execution and consistency, striving for perfection every play.

"People say it comes down to three or four plays in every game," said Pelini. "It comes down to every play because you never know which play's going to make the difference.

"You have to take the attitude as a football team and as a football player that you play every single play like it's the last one you're ever going to play because you never know which play of the game is going to make a difference. If you have a lapse, you can't have it back. You've got to go to the next one. You can't have that last play back.

"That's what it comes down to, a couple of plays."



# 2MinuteDrill

JAKE WESCH



## VERSATILITY

Senior holder **JAKE WESCH** earned a compliment from coach **BO PELINI** for his handling of a less-than-ideal center snap on an **ALEX HENERY** field goal in the opening game against Western Michigan. And he completed an 8-yard pass to tight end **MIKE MCNEILL** on a fake field goal in the Texas Tech game. The play carried to the Red Raiders' 1-yard line.

He also has punted this season.

"I love having him on our football team," said Pelini. "I think he brings a lot to the table. He's a leader. He's unselfish. He's a team guy, team first. He's all about the program and loves playing here, loves being on this team. He's a guy I have a tremendous amount of confidence in, in every regard."

## IMPACT OF MISTAKES

Give credit where credit is due, exclusive of mistakes.

"If somebody makes a play, they make a play," Cornhusker coach **BO PELINI** said recently. "But if you do something that...if you hurt yourself, then you're exponentially increasing the chances for that play to make the difference in the football game."



## NOT BY THE NUMBERS

Don't cite statistics to **BO PELINI**, not when evaluating, say, a defensive effort. "You never really measure anything on statistics," he said. "It's about points. It's about efficiency. Having a good day on defense is doing what you have to do on that given day to win the football game. I think stats can be true to what's going on, but they can also lie."

"I think you've got to look at efficiency. There are so many things that go into good defense and having a winning performance. I just never really got caught up in stats. There were days I know we gave up yards that I thought we played very well and vice versa. I think you've got to look at things that really equate to winning, and obviously, No. 1 is points, turnover margin, takeaways, limiting big plays ... there are so many things that go into playing good defense, and sometimes that translates into the stats (and) sometimes it doesn't, depending upon the flow of the game, that type of thing."

## SIDELINES



### BELIEF IN THE SYSTEM

The Tampa Bay Rays are in the World Series, in only the 11th season of their existence.

Cornhusker coach **BO PELINI** used their success to make a point during his weekly news conference on the Tuesday before the Baylor game. "Try and tell me there wasn't a culture instilled in that baseball team," he said. "Did they have the confidence? I heard one of their guys the other night say ... they thought they were a couple of years away."

"But they believed in the process. They believed in themselves and what they were going to do. Over time, they stuck with the process of playing and playing together and eventually won out. It's one of the great challenges you have in sports, no matter what sport. It's pretty much the same in how you run things and how you eventually get to the success you want to have."



# 2MinuteDrill



## YOU SAID A MOUTHFUL

Sometimes, quarterback **JOE GANZ** doesn't put in his mouthpiece. He sticks it in his facemask instead. He's been doing it since high school, when crowd noise makes calling signals more difficult. "I'll take it out just so the guys can hear me a little bit better," he said after the Iowa State game. "So it's not a big deal. I've done it a lot."

"It's just something I do when I'm backed up or we're in (near) the opponent student section, where it's really loud," he said, noting that he's able to enunciate better.

## PENALIZING PENALTIES

The Cornhuskers were flagged a combined 22 times in losses to Missouri and Texas Tech. To emphasize the need to avoid correctible mistakes, such as jumping off-sides or holding, offensive linemen have a system of punishment. Initially, the conditioning punishment was for penalties in games. Now, the punishment is

meted out for mistakes in practice, too.

"I'm not good at running, especially long," senior offensive guard **MATT SLAUSON** said. "I'm good at (running) between from 0 to 10 yards. That's my cup of tea."

"All jokes aside, you just have to take the punishment the right way, whether it's easy or not. We can't have drive-stoppers like that. Whether you have a few push-ups to do or 10 up-downs or some running, it all needs to be taken the same way."

One lineman makes the mistake, but everyone runs the punishment drill. The effect is "mostly for the person who got the flag because he's like, 'Now, I'm making all my friends run, too,'" said Slauson. "That's the biggest thing because that will be sitting in the back of his head for the next time. It's quickly forgotten."

"We have so much to worry about, so we just have to keep on going."

## SIDELINES



### ADJUSTING ON THE RUN

Senior wide receiver **NATE SWIFT** studies opponents. But he can't prepare for everything they might do. "I think it's more of a game-day thing," he said. "You can study all the film you want. Then you get in the game and they're going to do something different all the time. They're not going to keep the same defense, the same, exact look every week. So you've kind of got to feel it out in the game, figure out what they're doing each game."



### NO OFFENSE INTENDED

Sophomore tight end **DREU YOUNG** wore a No. 81 jersey in high school. He was a receiver on offense and a safety on defense. He wears No. 49 now, though not because he requested it. "They gave me 49, and I was like, 'All right, sweet,'" he said. "Then I was thinking, 'There's nobody who's ever been any good wearing 49. So maybe that's a sign.'" He was just joking, though no Nebraska All-American ever wore No. 49.



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## JOKERS WILD



The "joker" alignment drew considerable attention the first time Nebraska used it against Iowa State, with I-back Marlon Lucky taking a direct snap from center. But it was nothing new, really. A similar formation was commonplace, in fact, many years ago.

The single-wing was once the formation of choice, with the tailback taking a direct snap and then running or passing – or, in some cases, even punting.

The offensive line was typically unbalanced, two guards, a tackle and an end on one side of the center, a tackle and

an end on the other. There was a fullback, a wingback and a blocking back in addition to the tailback, around whom the offense was built.

It was a power alignment, eventually giving way to the T-formation.

The Miami Dolphins have used such a formation this season. They call it the "Wildcat." In a 38-13 victory against the New England Patriots in late September, Dolphins running back Ronnie Brown scored four touchdowns and passed for another out of it.

Miami's first-year quarterbacks coach David Lee brought the formation from Arkansas, where he was the offensive coordinator. Darren McFadden, the Razorbacks' Doak Walker Award winner at tailback in 2007 (now with the Oakland Raiders), ran from the formation.

Cornhusker offensive coordinator Shawn Watson "has got an eye for trick plays," said Lucky, who was aware of the Dolphins having used the formation.

"It's football; you steal from everybody."

Anything "to get the ball in our hands," he said, "makes us happy."

Literally, center Jacob Hickman has to get the ball in the I-back's hands in the "joker" alignment. And that required repetition in practice, of course.

The week before the Iowa State game,

Lucky "gave me a hard time once or twice," Hickman said. "He was joking, but I still said, 'Hey, if you ever give me a hard time again, I'll snap it 10 feet over your head.'"

Hickman was joking, too.

The most difficult part for Lucky and the other I-backs was getting the hang of a silent count, according to Hickman. "They couldn't seem to figure it out," he said.

They could raise a leg or signal with a hand, but not up high. "You're supposed to get your hand (down) so I can see it, and they're like this, moving around up here," said Hickman, who demonstrated by moving his right hand back and forth across his chest. "I'm like, 'I've got my head between my legs. I can't put it through and see your face.'"

There are a "ton of things" they can do, "but it's got to be down where I can see," he said. Initially, Roy Helu "couldn't seem to figure out how to do the silent count," Hickman said. "They've got it now. They've got their one little move."

Quarterback Joe Ganz lines up in the slot, as a wide receiver, in the "joker" formation, which means he's most likely to be blocking, although he did catch a touchdown pass thrown by Lucky in the New Mexico State game.

Ganz "is an athlete," said Lucky. "He knows pretty much how to do anything."

## RETURNING TO NORMAN

The last time Nebraska played Oklahoma in Norman, **TYLER WORTMAN** was a freshman redshirt, dealing with the anonymity of the scout team and the frustration of a broken ankle. The Cornhuskers' trip to Norman to play the Sooners this week won't be his first there, however.

Wortman began attending Nebraska football games with his dad when he was "7 or 8" years old and even made the trip to Norman for what was then an annual rivalry. Family friends in Oklahoma were their ticket connection, and the friends came to Lincoln on alternate years. So he's been to games at Owen Field before, just not as a player.

He also was among the 75,926 at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln – with his dad in the "nosebleed seats" – for Tom Osborne's 250th coaching victory, 69-7 against Oklahoma in 1997.

He was 11 years old at the time. "I got down on the field afterward," Wortman said. "I got to see how enormous the players were compared to me. It was just amazing."





# 2MinuteDrill



# N

## Grand Island, Nebraska



**TYLER WORTMAN**

A lot of Nebraska football players have come from Grand Island high schools. And Tyler Wortman can name a few. John Parrella, in particular, "really stood out to me," he said.

The former Cornhusker defensive lineman returned home to conduct summer football camps while he was playing in the NFL – he played 13 seasons, with four teams – and Wortman attended Parrella's camps when he was an impressionable middle-school student.

Also, Parrella attended Central Catholic High School, the same as Wortman. So "I saw the records he had in lifting and stuff like that," said Wortman, whose first athletic passion was wrestling. "That gave me motivation, something to strive for."

Wortman began paying attention to Nebraska football at an early age, when the Cornhuskers won back-to-back national championships. He imagined himself playing for them then, but "I guess it wasn't realistic to me until the summer before my junior year (in high school)," he said. "I came down to a

Big Red Football Camp, and the coaches started talking to me."

Though Grand Island is Nebraska's third-largest city, "relative to other cities across the United States, it's still not that big," Wortman said. He doesn't feel pressure from his hometown, exactly, "but kind of. You don't want to let anybody down." **N**



**TODD PETERSON**



**BRENT MORAVEC**

### TYLER WORTMAN

6-3, 235, Senior, Linebacker

### TODD PETERSON

6-4, 215, Senior, Wide receiver

### BRENT MORAVEC

6-0, 180, Freshman, Cornerback

**Hometown:** Grand Island, Neb.

**County:** Hall (county seat)

**Population:** 44,802

**Distance from Lincoln:** 100 miles

### On representing Grand

**Island:** "I think it really matters. There's a line of history of guys who have come from there and done great things here. So just being a part of that is awesome."

[Tyler Wortman]



PHOTOS BY JOE WICKS



**JOHN PARRELLA**

### Nebraska football lettermen from Grand Island:

Mike Anderson, LB (1990-93)  
 Scott Beckler, P (1989)  
 William Callihan, FB (1936-38)  
 Todd Carpenter, OT (1985)  
 Phil Ellis, LB (1992-95)  
 Lawrence Ely, C (1930-32)  
 Jeff Finn, TE (1978-80)  
 Ernest Frank, HB (1910-12)  
 Owen Frank, HB (1909-11)  
 Albert Freitag, G (1912)  
 Harry Grimminger, G (1982-84)  
 Jeff Hemje, CB (1998-01)  
 Clarence Herndon, T (1939-41)  
 Charles Justice, G (1929-31)  
 Glenn Justice, G (1933-34)  
 Robert Kahler, HB (1938-40)  
 Royal Kahler, T (1938-40)  
 Howard Kelly, C (1940-41)  
 Roscoe Kroger, T (1930)  
 George Kyros, DB (1972-74)  
 Michael Lee, E (1956-57)  
 Kurt Mann, C (2004-06)  
 Lester McDonald, E (1934-36)  
 Mike McElroy, C (1981)  
 Neal Mehrling, G (1934)  
 Robert Mehrling, G (1935-37)  
 Don Olson, G (1957, 59)  
 John Parrella, DT (1990-92)  
 Jon Pederson, C (1992-93)  
 Todd Peterson, WR (2005-present)  
 Clarence Raish, G (1925-27)  
 Tom Rathman, FB (1983-85)  
 Bobby Reynolds, HB (1950-52)  
 Carl Samuelson, E (1946-47)  
 Kenneth Shindo, E (1937-39)  
 Shane Siegel, SS (2002-04)  
 Robert Smith, FB (1951-54)  
 Dan Thayer, S (1985-86)  
 Matt Vrzal, OG (1994-96)  
 Tyler Wortman, LB (2007-present)





## THE BIG 12 BEAT

BY CURT MCKEEVER

# Family business at Colorado

**TYLER HANSEN WAS MISSING** the game-night lights anyway, so when Colorado offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich suggested following a loss at Kansas that Hansen could help the Buffs, his decision was a no-brainer.

Thus, in the seventh game of the season, the 6-2 quarterback from Temecula, Calif., ended a planned redshirt season and teamed with Cody Hawkins to help CU snap a three-game losing streak by edging Kansas State 14-13.

Hansen – the first true freshman quarterback at Colorado to see significant action since Craig Ochs in 2000 – threw a second-quarter touchdown pass. He also ran for 88 yards on 19 carries, as the Buffs rediscovered their running game by logging a season-high 57 carries for a season-best 247 yards.

"Yeah, you never like it. That's for sure," CU coach Dan Hawkins said of pulling a player out of a redshirt midway through a season. "But some things in life are agonizing, and some things in football are agonizing. Certainly we wouldn't have done it if Tyler wasn't in full agreement to do it. That's always a first thing when any personnel thing comes up. You really talk to the kids, and we tell them, 'Hey, we're not going to think bad of you if you don't. That's totally your call.'"

Compounding the difficulty of the situation with Hansen was that it also affected the playing status of Hawkins' son.

And so how did that end of the deal go for the coach when he got home and met his wife, Misti?

"You know, it's funny being in this position where you've got three billion people passing judgments about you and your wife and your kid and your quarterback. The vast majority of them have been so off target it's not even funny. But she was fired up that Tyler got in and that he played well, and she was really happy for him and happy that we won," Hawkins

said. "She understands this thing as much as anybody else. She's a mom for everyone on the team, not just No. 7."

Cody Hawkins, who directed five of the 13 series, returned for the final one to help Colorado run more than four minutes off the clock.

**KANSAS STATE** went into the Colorado game ranked No. 3 in the nation with fewest three-and-out possessions (six). But the Wildcats had six first-half series of no more than three plays.

They also were converting 49.3 percent of its third downs for the season, but went just three-of-15 against CU.

After improving to 7-0 with its rout of Missouri, **TEXAS** emerged as the top team in the first BCS standings. Those wondering whether the Longhorns can survive their schedule and make it to Miami might like to know the team that's been No. 1 in the first BCS standings has made the national title game each of the past five years.

**OKLAHOMA** got mixed results moving strong safety Nic Harris to middle linebacker the game after leading tackler Ryan Reynolds suffered a season-ending knee injury. During their 45-31 win against Kansas, the Sooners gave up 491 yards, but forced six second-half punts. With Harris sliding up, backup Quinton Carter got the start at strong safety and promptly led the Sooners with 10 tackles.

**OKLAHOMA STATE** tight end Brandon Pettigrew played for the first time in the Cowboys' win against Baylor after sitting out three games with a foot injury. Pettigrew made a catch for 22 yards.

"It's kind of like when your wife tells you to do something around the house and she's on you and on you, so you do it so she'll quit telling you," OSU coach Mike Gundy said. "That's Brandon. He was on me every day. It

was nice to have him back."

**MISSOURI** coach Gary Pinkel was right about the Oct. 11 loss to Oklahoma State being "really difficult on our players." In their first four possessions against Texas, the Tigers got 14 yards out of 15 plays and wound up facing a 28-0 deficit.

For once, it wasn't just Graham Harrell and Co. who turned things up a notch when **TEXAS TECH** needed it against Texas A&M. After trailing 23-20 at halftime, the Red Raiders yielded just 32 yards the rest of the way.

**TEXAS A&M's** Ryan Tannehill, became the first freshman in A&M history to get 100 receiving yards in consecutive games, pulling that trick against Kansas State and Texas Tech. Rated by Rivals.com as the nation's No. 21 dual-threat quarterback coming out of Big Spring, Texas, Tannehill is listed as a No. 2 receiver and also a backup at quarterback.

**TEXAS** quarterback Colt McCoy's 29-for-32 performance against Missouri was a school record for accuracy.

"His execution was as good to me as I've ever seen," Pinkel said. "...We've got to play better defense, there's no question about that. I'm disappointed in that. But I'm telling you, there's no way I'm going to devalue what he did."

**TEXAS TECH** was No. 8 in the first BCS standings, and might have been higher had it been received better marks from the three computers used in the formula.

So, of course, coach Mike Leach has his thoughts on computers.

"Obviously, you need somebody around that knows how to run a computer, and your video's on computer, but to me anything involving computers is very frustrating, so I ignore it at every extent that I can," Leach said. "...I don't have any control over 'em. I mean, it's not like I can send a repairman or somebody to go fix 'em. You know?"





# Curenski Gilleylen

6-0, 210, Redshirted Freshman, WR, Leander, Texas

When it came to coloring in color books as a youngster, Curenski Gilleylen was a perfectionist. If he were to color outside the lines, he would rip out the page and throw it away. "I was that serious about it," he said.

That seriousness carried over into another childhood interest, which he still has: drawing. In art class, when a drawing was returned, even if he was told it was well done, he would try to make it better. "When you're little, they won't

say there's anything wrong with it," he said. "But I'd get it back and say, 'I should have done this and this.' I'd try to do it better. A lot of times, it wasn't better. But I would try."

He still does. He has filled one large sketchbook and he's working on another, with scenery drawn from his imagination, "a beach, horizon, skyline, things like that," he said. "It's something I do whenever I feel stressed out. It gets me out of my own mind."

**HI: What's the most notable thing about Leander, Texas?**

GILLEYLEN: The dance program at our high school. It's nationally recognized. They're really serious about the dance program. It's really competitive. They travel all over the country.

**HI: If you could excel in another sport at the collegiate level, what would it be?**

GILLEYLEN: Probably baseball, I stopped playing when I was about 6 because I started playing football and basketball and started running track, so I didn't have time to play baseball. But I think baseball would be something I would play. I was a third baseman and shortstop.

**HI: If you could spend 30 minutes with a celebrity, sports or otherwise, who would you pick and what would you ask them?**

GILLEYLEN: Probably Jamie Fox, I really like him. He can act and sing. He's a comedian. I would just try to pick his brain. He's a funny guy, so I'm sure he'd have something funny to say. It would be an interesting conversation.

**HI: What do you remember most about your recruiting trip to Nebraska?**

GILLEYLEN: Because I didn't come during the football season, I didn't get to come to a game. But it was really just the atmosphere and the coaches, Coach (Ted) Gilmore and Coach (Shawn) Watson, they were so welcoming. It seemed like a really nice place to be. Mo Purify was my host.

**HI: When you eat a hotdog, what do you put on it?**

GILLEYLEN: I put mayonnaise on the bread and sometimes ketchup. I really don't like ketchup, but I can't eat hotdogs plain. So I put mayonnaise and ketchup, and maybe chili.

**HI: What's the hardest part of blocking?**

GILLEYLEN: The most difficult part of blocking is actually not locking onto them but staying. You're supposed to drive whenever you block, and you're not exactly sure where the running back is trying to go, which way you're trying to take him. So you're supposed to just drive and they're trying to get off of you. That's probably the hardest part.

**HI: What's your most embarrassing moment on a football field?**

GILLEYLEN: My senior year, I ran a speed play and cut it back. I broke a tackle. I stepped on another tackler. I ran somebody over and went 55 yards down the field. Somebody hit me and I fumbled. It was a Homecoming game. We were up by like 50 points. It didn't matter, but I was embarrassed.

**HI: What's your favorite thing to watch on television?**

GILLEYLEN: I watch ESPN, of course. I actually watch cartoons a lot, the Disney Channel. I'm still a little kid, so I watch cartoons all the time. I used to watch Rugrats. Other than that, I watch SpongeBob, everything on the Disney Channel.

**HI: Terrell Owens, Randy Moss or Marvin Harrison?**

GILLEYLEN: I admire Marvin Harrison more than anything because he's not really the fastest guy or the biggest guy, most definitely, but his routes are just ridiculous. That's what makes him successful.

**HI: What was your best Halloween costume?**

GILLEYLEN: Dang, I would say a Batman costume when I was like 4 or 5, little ears, the cape and everything. I stopped doing Halloween when I was like 6. I had football practice during that time of year, so I didn't get to go out trick-or-treating.





# Holly Adam

## Everyone's "inside source"

Yes, of course, Holly Adam often gets pegged as an "inside source" of sorts for coveted Nebraska athletic tickets.

"You get it from a lot of friends you haven't heard from in a long time, or friends that are friends of friends," she said with a laugh. "I always tell them, 'If I have them, I'll help you, but if I don't, I don't.' Whatever's available to the general public, then that's what they get."

Adam completely understands why she gets such ticket inquiries. After all, she is THE "inside source" for tickets, at least in an official capacity.

Adam's in her fifth year as Nebraska's athletic ticket manager, serving as the primary day-to-day contact for all ticketing issues. She's responsible for all functions of NU's ticket operations, including distribution and sales for all ticketed events. She oversees

a staff that handles more than 100 sporting events on campus each year, including conference and NCAA events.

Adam began working in the Nebraska ticket office in March of 1993 as a part-time student worker before accepting a full-time position in 1995. She was promoted to assistant director of operations in 1997.

A native of Daykin, Neb., Adam has a keen understanding of how important Nebraska athletics are to people throughout the state.

"I mean, everybody's so passionate about the Huskers," she said. "As a kid, my parents always had season tickets, so we'd go to men's basketball, women's basketball, football. You just kind grow to love it. And then when you get to be around something that's so important to everybody, it makes



the job fun."

There also challenges in her work.

"We're often working on the next season while we're in the middle of a season," she said. For example, "By the beginning of football season, we were also working on getting our men's and women's basketball invoices out . . . We're always kind of a season ahead in the office."

What's more, Adam and her staff often prepares for events that might not end up being held at Nebraska, such as various NCAA events for which the university bids.

Adam graduated from Nebraska with a bachelor's degree in agricultural science in August of 1997. Adam and her husband, Todd, have a son (Logan) and a daughter (Ashlyn).

## Catching up with BY MIKE BABCOCK

# Allen Lyday

## Former cornerback still unmatched



When Allen Lyday visited the weight room at the Tom and Nancy Osborne Complex in July, he was surprised to see a photo of himself on the wall.

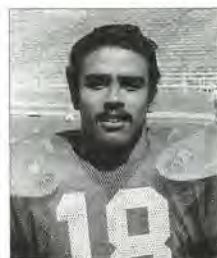
His 39½-inch vertical jump was still a team record.

Lyday turned to his son, Evan, a high school senior in Missouri City, Texas, and major college baseball pitching prospect, and said, "It's still standing, dude. See, Dad, had a little bit of ups going on back then."

Dad had more than ups. He was a state high school wrestling champion in Kansas and aspired to play defensive back at Texas Southern University.

He didn't make the team as a defensive back, however. Rather, he made it as a punter, second-string. And after one season, he transferred to Nebraska.

The initial contact was Cornhusker wrestling



coach Bob

Fehrs. But when he visited campus, he met with football recruiting coordinator Jerry Pettibone. The result of that meeting was an opportunity walk on, pay his own way to play football.

The athlete who couldn't make the football team as a defensive back at Texas Southern was a second-team All-Big Eight cornerback as a senior at Nebraska and went on to play four years in the NFL with the Houston Oilers.

Even though he's been gone a long time, "I still consider myself a part of a great program," Lyday said. "Whenever I'm there, I know I'm home."

"Whenever I hear 'Hail Varsity,' the pride swells up."

### ALLEN LYDAY

**LETTERS:** 1981-82

**POSITION:** Cornerback

**CURRENT:** Human Resources, Crown Beverage Packaging, Sugarland, Texas

**WIFE:** Teresa

**CHILDREN:** Blake (25), Brandon (25), Nicholas (20), Evan (18)



## Reaching for the stars

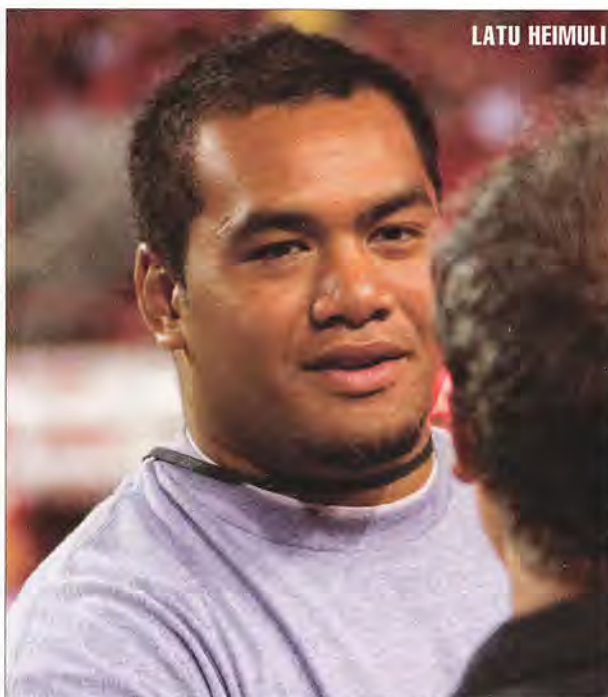
BY RICK SHAW

**T**he Nebraska football team picked up some recruiting steam heading into the final half of October, picking up commitments from two of their top targets from out-of-state. Tight end **J.T. KERR** (6-4, 230-pounds) out of San Diego (Calif.) Scripps Ranch and linebacker **CHRIS WILLIAMS** (6-0, 230-pounds) out of Abilene (Texas) were both considered top prospects at their positions by the Husker staff. Both, coincidentally, delivered their pledges to Nebraska within the same 24 hour period.

Williams is the second player with a four-star rating (as per Rivals.com) to be added to the 'Big Red' commit list, joining highly decorated quarterback pledge **CODY GREEN** of Dayton, Texas. Williams' chose the Huskers over offers from Oklahoma, Oregon, and Tennessee and added some sparkle to the Nebraska class heading into the final three months of recruiting.

With only six or seven available slots still to be claimed, the Huskers look to have a good shot to add some additional "star power" to their pledge list before Signing Day. At least six other uncommitted four-star prospects still include Nebraska among their list of favorites.

**REX BURKHEAD**, a 5-11, 190-pound running back out of Plano (Texas) was on Nebraska's sidelines for the Husker spring game in April and took an official visit to Lincoln on Sept. 12. Holding offers from well over 20 Division I schools, including Alabama, Auburn, California, Michigan, Nebraska and Texas A&M, Burkhead said



LATU HEIMULI

that he doesn't plan to announce a college decision until after his senior season.

"I just want to go where I fit in the best," Burkhead said. "That's what it comes down to. I'll look for the one that has the most positives and where I feel more at home than the others."

"(As far as Nebraska), they're definitely a team that's 100 percent on every play. That's kind of what Nebraska football has been known for. I love the way they use their backs. They use them as receivers as well as ball carriers."

Rated the nation's No. 15 all-purpose back by Rivals (four-stars), Burkhead has done a little bit of everything for Plano during the first half of the season. Through four games, the talented Texan racked up 693 rushing yards and 12 touchdowns on 100 attempts. He also hauled in seven catches for 103 yards and returned both a punt and kick for scores as well.

Burkhead has yet to schedule any additional official visits to other schools. That, coupled with the fact that he has spoken very highly of the Nebraska program ever since his first trip to Lincoln may bode well for the Huskers' chances in this recruiting battle.

Four-star defensive tackle **LATU HEIMULI** (6-3, 305-pounds) of Salt Lake City (Utah) Highland loved his Oct. 3 visit to Nebraska. Though he admits the Huskers will be tough to beat for his commitment, he said he plans to visit Washington State and Arizona and possibly Oregon State, UCLA and Cal before making a final decision.

"I really, really enjoyed it. [Nebraska] is pretty high – in my top three (along with BYU and either Oregon State or Arizona)," Heimuli said. "I'm still planning to take a few trips though."

Regarded as the nation's No. 26 defensive tackle prospect by Rivals, Heimuli tallied 54 tackles and five sacks as a junior, earning first-team all-state honors.

Highly touted cornerback **GABE LYNN** (6-0, 185-pounds) out of Jenks (Okla.) holds the Huskers among his top four college choices. Rated the No. 4 cornerback prospect and the nation's No. 38 prospect overall by Rivals (four-stars), Lynn took an official visit Lincoln on Sept. 12. Though Nebraska is his only official trip to-date, his father Tyrone Lynn said that status should change over the course of the next month.

"He's already visited Nebraska, so



they're definitely still in the mix," Tyrone Lynn said. "He'll decide on three final visits out of a group of five schools - Texas, Oklahoma State, Oklahoma, LSU and North Carolina. He'll take those final three trips and try to have a decision by early December."

"He's definitely still interested in Nebraska. You can't just look at things in terms of wins and losses. That all can be turned around pretty quick. If you've been around that program like I have over the past few years, you can tell they're going in the right direction."

The younger brother of current Nebraska starting linebacker **PHILLIP DILLARD**, Lynn and his family have had several opportunities to bond with the new Husker coaching staff. Though he holds over 40 scholarship offers, his familiarity with the program should keep the 'Big Red' in the thick of this race until the end.

Four-star safety prospect **DIJON WASHINGTON** (6-0, 175-pounds) out of Lawndale (Calif.) Leuzinger visited Nebraska during the same weekend as Heimuli. He said, while he really enjoyed his visit to the Midwest, he too wants to take a couple of more visits before solidifying a college choice.

"I'd rate my visit to Lincoln a '10'," Washington said. "It pretty much went perfect. Nebraska has always been high on

## "I'D RATE

my visit to Lincoln a '10.' It pretty much went perfect. Nebraska has always been high on my list and they still are. They definitely helped themselves with this trip."

**SAFETY RECRUIT  
DIJON WASHINGTON**



my list and they still are. They definitely helped themselves with this trip."

"I'm not ready to make a decision yet though. I'm probably going to wait until the season gets over and take a few trips before making a choice. I want to make sure I look at all of my options. Right now, I'm going to focus on my senior season and how I can continue getting better."

Rated the nation's No. 15 safety prospect, Washington is also considering overtures from Oregon State, San Diego State, Washington and Washington State, among others.

Two other four-star recruits still giving Nebraska high consideration are **KEENAN GRAHAM**, a 6-3, 220-pound defensive end out of Las Vegas (Nev.) Silverado and **DAYTAWION LOWE**, a 6-0, 175-pound safety out of Midwest City (Okla.) Carl Albert. Both visited Lincoln in late September.

Nebraska doesn't plan its recruiting strategy around "stars" and rankings. They look for good athletes that they project will fit-in well to their offense and defensive philosophies. Regardless, by the time all of the dust settles on their 2009 recruiting class, the Husker coaching staff could very well find a bit more sparkle on their list of signees. **N**

## COMMITTED



### PENSICK NOT GIVING UP

Local Husker target **COLE PENSICK** was the first commitment for Nebraska in their 2009 class.

While the new Husker staff was working on finishing things in the 2008 group, Lincoln (Neb.) Northeast defensive tackle/offensive center prospect Pensick made his decision to join the next year's class in January of this year.

Though his senior season won't end with a playoff run, he's still excited about finishing out the last high school season as strong as possible and working towards the future at Nebraska.

"It teaches you basically to not give up," Pensick said about playing the last game of his senior season. "I think us as a team, us, the coaches, we're mainly working on going out there not to lose, but go as hard as we can and hopefully come out with a 'W.'"

The 6-2, 250-pounder has talked with Nebraska's coaches about playing either defensive tackle, or possibly center next year. Following his father, Dan Pensick who was a three-year letter winner at defensive tackle for NU in the late 1970's, Cole and dad have been keeping a close eye on the Huskers this year.

"We've been basically talking about the last two games and that they've been playing really well," he said. "Basically we've been talking about how the players don't give up. I mean, we're looking forward to it and I know coaches are too."

**by John Talman**, Recruiting Publisher  
HuskiersIllustrated.com



# Recruiting Notebook

## Huskers add to 2009 class

by Sean Stevens

It's been awhile since Nebraska received an oral commitment for its 2009 recruiting class, but the "drought" ended in mid-October.

Linebacker **CHRIS WILLIAMS** (6-0/230/4-stars) of Abilene, Texas made his commitment official Oct. 16, choosing NU over offers from Oklahoma, LSU, Tennessee, Missouri, Oregon and others.

"I am convinced they're going to get it turned around," Williams said. "I feel like I can help them, as being that guy that turns it around for them. I'm getting a chance to play for the guy (Bo Pelini) who is arguably the best defensive coordinator, and then having the whole state behind me — that's what it's all about."

Following up his junior season after which he was named AP Class 5A Defensive MVP, this season Williams has tallied 76 tackles (14 for loss) with one sack, two forced fumbles, one fumble recovery and a blocked punt.

He talked about his approach to the game.

"It's just creating a mental hatred for your opponent," Williams said. "You go into it and have to have respect for them, but mental hatred during the time when the ball is snapped."

"I don't think the guy across from me is



CHRIS WILLIAMS

willing to give up what I'm about to give up for that yard."

Williams has watched NU on television this season. He offered his thoughts about their play.

"You can see the way they're playing against top teams in the nation. People don't understand the coaching staff has just [gotten] there and are teaching a complicated defense to guys they've just met this past year. I can't wait to get on board."

## SIDELINES



### KERR MAKES COMMITMENT

It's been anticipated that San Diego, Calif. tight end **J.T. KERR** (6-4/230/3-stars) would be the next commitment for Nebraska since his official visit Sept. 12. On Oct. 16, Kerr made his decision official.

His high school coach, Sergio Diaz, said that Kerr has been leaning to NU for some time.

"Since the beginning, and looking at his options, he was really excited when Nebraska offered," Diaz said. "He just felt really comfortable. Coach (Ron) Brown has done an outstanding job staying in touch with him. He took his official visit and came back, and said 'I loved it out there.'"

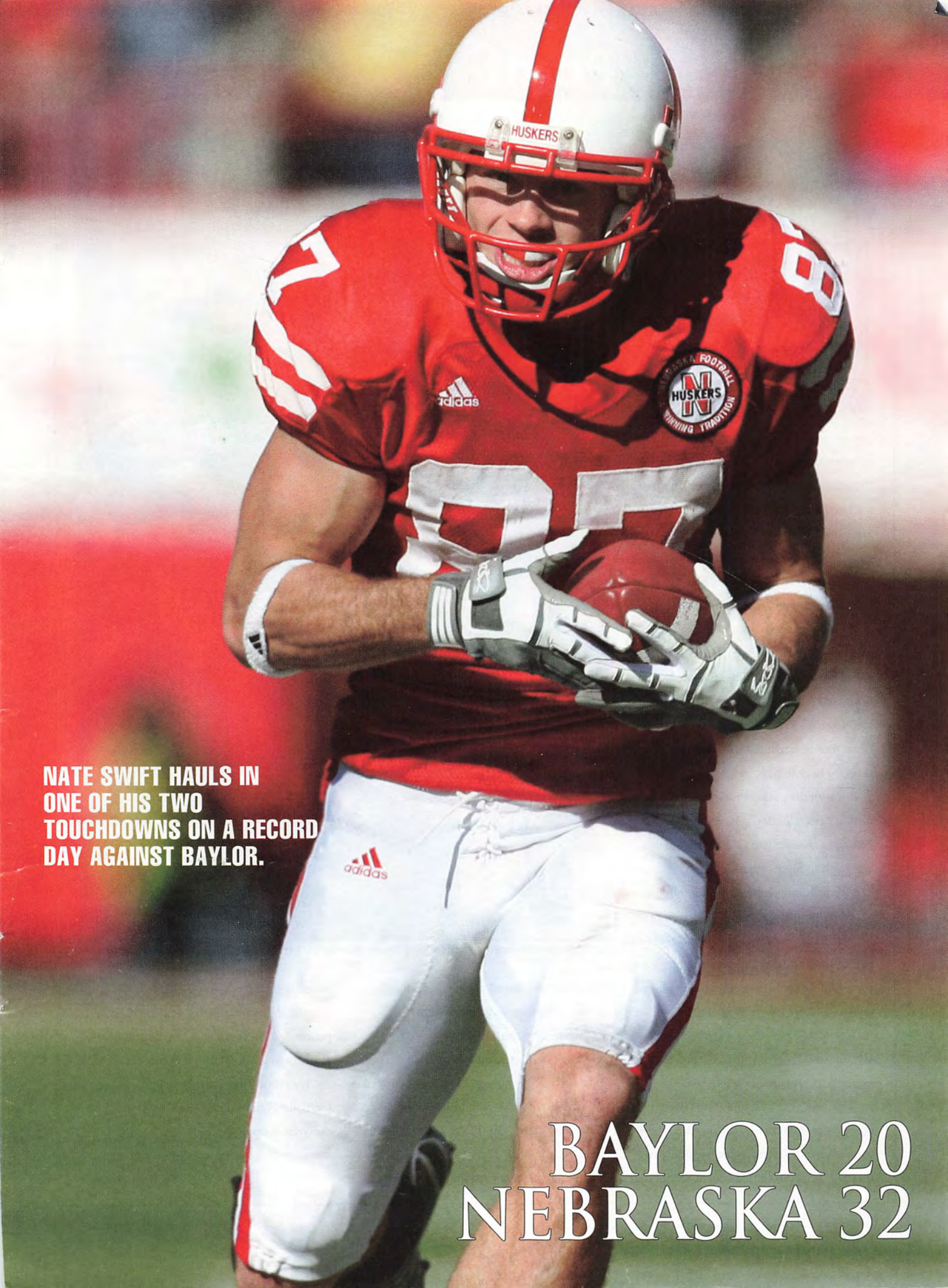
The coach talked about what Kerr will bring to NU.

"I think he's going to bring that desire the passion to be a Husker," Diaz continued. "When he texted me that he was committing, I said, 'What was your choice?' He didn't say I'm going to Nebraska or I'm going to play football for Nebraska... He said, 'I am going to be a Husker.'"

## 2009 Nebraska Commitment List (14)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (High School)
Nick Ash	OL	6-5	261	Keller, Texas (Keller)
Shawn Bodtmann	OLB	6-0	205	Scranton, Pa. (West Scranton)
DeAndre Byrd	CB	5-10	170	Tallahassee, Fla. (Lincoln)
Jess Coffey	OL	6-7	270	Denton, Texas (Guyer)
Emerson Evans	DE	6-1	230	Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor)
Cody Green	QB	6-4	220	Dayton, Texas (Dayton)
J.T. Kerr	TE	6-4	230	Corona, Calif. (Scripps Ranch)
Taylor Martinez	ATH	6-0	176	Corona, Calif. (Centennial)
Cole Pensick	DL	6-2	250	Lincoln, Neb. (Northeast)
Thaddeus Randle	DL	6-1	255	Galena Park, Texas (North Shore)
Dontrayevous Robinson	RB	6-1	215	Euless, Texas (Trinity)
Brent Qvale	OL	6-7	300	Williston, N.D. (Williston)
Chris Williams	LB	6-0	230	Abilene, Texas (Abilene)
C.J. Zimmerer	FB	6-0	213	Omaha, Neb. (Omaha Gross)





**NATE SWIFT HAULS IN  
ONE OF HIS TWO  
TOUCHDOWNS ON A RECORD  
DAY AGAINST BAYLOR.**

**BAYLOR 20  
NEBRASKA 32**



# Asante sinks dagger

**N**ebraska's aptly named run-pass blitz known as "Back Dagger" put a dagger in Baylor's upset hopes against the Cornhuskers.

Containing talented Baylor quarterback Robert Griffin proved

to be a tall order for Nebraska's defense as the talented true freshman rushed 16 times for 121 yards. However, when it came to arguably the biggest offensive play of the game for the Bears, Huskers' safety Larry Asante was coming on a blitz and found himself in the right place at the right time in NU's 32-20 victory.

With the Huskers clinging to a 24-20 lead with 13 minutes remaining, Baylor attempted to convert a fourth-and-4 opportunity from the Nebraska 31-yard line. As expected, the Bears put the ball into Griffin's hands as he dropped back to pass.

But with the pocket breaking down, Griffin darted for daylight. Fortunately for Nebraska, Asante had Griffin in his sights, sacking him for a 4-yard loss.

"We had him a number of times in the game, but (Griffin) just made a couple of plays and made some people miss," Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said. "But on that one, Larry came and was able to get him to the ground and it was a big play in the game."

Asante said he blitzed with the idea that Griffin would probably prefer scrambling as opposed to actually passing the ball.

"I came up the hole and it was wide open," said Asante, who finished tied for the team lead with seven tackles, including two for loss. "(Griffin) started scrambling all over



Larry Asante celebrates after sacking Baylor quarterback Robert Griffin in the fourth quarter.

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

the place, so I stayed in containment and wrapped him up and tackled him."

Boosted by the defensive stop, Nebraska's offense quickly made the Bears pay with a four-play scoring drive, capped by Nate Swift's 53-yard touchdown pass from Joe Ganz. The TD gave the Huskers a 30-20 lead with 12:11 to play as place-kicker Alex Henery's point-after attempt

sailed wide left.

After that, Baylor never managed to penetrate into Nebraska territory again as the Huskers shut out the Bears in the second half.

"Everybody was playing assignment football," Asante said. "It makes it easy when everyone is doing their job." **N**

— by Terry Douglass



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN



Senior offensive lineman Lydon Murtha opens a lane.

PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON



Cody Glenn drags down quarterback Robert Griffin.

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN



Junior Colton Koehler celebrates a safety in the fourth quarter.

## REPORT CARD

### RUSHING:

B-

Now that the offense has discovered its true identity, it's apparent Nebraska is no longer trying to hang its hat on the running game. It's now an effective change-up. Quentin Castille's fumble near the goal line hurt.

### PASSING:

A-

While Ganz threw behind a couple of receivers early, he completed 70 percent of his passes for 336 yards and threw three touchdowns with no interceptions.

### RUSHING DEFENSE:

D

Although Nebraska did a better job in the second half, Baylor averaged 6.6 yards per rush. Bears quarterback Robert Griffin gashed the Huskers early and they also gave up a 43-yard scoring run to running back Jay Finley.

### PASSING DEFENSE:

B-

The final stats look impressive as Griffin was just 9-of-20 passing for 134 yards. However, there were several wide receivers breaking free in the secondary that didn't get the football as Baylor left some big plays on the field.

### KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS:

C

Nebraska did do some good things in the return game and the net punting average of 43.3 yards was a major improvement. However, a roughing-the-punter penalty, Alex Henery's first career missed PAT kick and a blocked field goal were a lot to overcome.

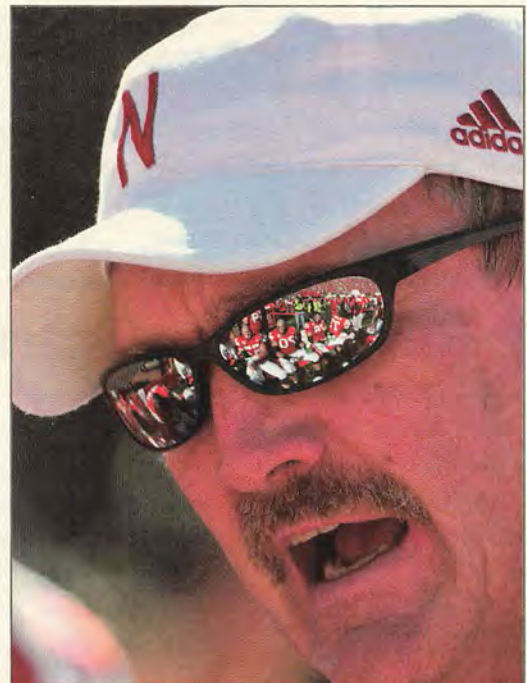


PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

Offensive line coach Barney Cotton addresses his players.



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN



## SWIFT, FROM BEGINNING TO END

For the second week in a row, senior **NATE SWIFT** was the Cornhuskers' leading receiver, with a career-high 11 catches for 121 yards and two touchdowns. He broke the school career record for receptions, previously held by **JOHNNY RODGERS**, and he moved into second place by himself with 18 career touchdown catches. Going into the game, he was tied with **MAURICE PURIFY**, behind Rodgers, who had 25. Swift was already second by himself to Rodgers in career-receiving yards.

"I'm really surprised the record has lasted as long as it has," Rodgers said earlier in the week. "I think the future really is in the spread and the pro offense, so it's going to be broken many times. I'm just glad that Swift is able to be the one. Someone has to catch it, has to do it."

### JUST JOKING

"We didn't want him to break it," quarterback

**JOE GANZ** said of **NATE SWIFT**'s breaking of **JOHNNY RODGERS**' career record for receptions. "We wanted to keep 'Jet' up there. I told him (Swift) every ball that's thrown to him, I wanted 5 bucks. If I throw the record-breaker, it's 100. He didn't pay up ... a touchdown is 250 ... so I went into the game not expecting to throw the ball to him at all."

Actually, the two are close friends. "It's cool, we grew up in the program together," said Ganz.

### LUCKY'S THE GUY

Senior I-back **MARLON LUCKY** rushed for 83 yards and a touchdown and caught three passes for 82 yards, including a left-handed grab of a pass that resulted in an 11-yard gain on third-and-3 on the touchdown drive that gave Nebraska a 17-14 lead late in the first half.

On the next play, Lucky finished off the drive with an 18-yard touchdown run.

"Marlon was one of our co-players of

the game last week, and I thought he played the same this week," said coach **BO PELINI**. "He's turned it up a notch. He's played well. He just carried on what he did last week. He made some big plays in the running game and the passing game.

"He's been very decisive in picking his holes and getting up the field, playing physical."

### PASSING

Quarterback **JOE GANZ** completed 32-of-46 passes for 336 yards and three touchdowns. In the past three games combined he has completed 74.8 percent of his passes. "I thought he started slow and finished well. He wasn't as sharp as he has been early in the game. He still made some good plays, but he's been playing at a high, high level, **BO PELINI** said. "He was just a little off in the first half, and I thought he picked it up, I thought he played exceptional in the second half."





PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

## SACK IS BACK

Nebraska had three sacks, bringing its total to 16 for the season. The Cornhuskers managed only 13 sacks in 12 games last season.

## HANDLING GRIFFIN

Robert Griffin, Baylor's freshman quarterback, didn't appear rattled playing in front of the 295th consecutive sellout crowd at Memorial Stadium.

The Cornhusker defense adjusted, however. He rushed for 99 yards in the first quarter but had a rushing net of only 50 yards the rest of the way.

"I really liked our plan. We had a number of guys assigned to him in different defenses. He's a pretty special athlete as you saw, and we just didn't execute, we didn't do some things very well in the first half. We didn't change much in the second half. We just played our calls better, were more disciplined. We were on the same page more consistently," coach **BO PELINI** said.

"He can go. He's fast. He's a pretty dynamic guy. He's the most dynamic guy we've seen at that position all year, running wise. So that takes a little bit of adjustment."

## COME FROM BEHIND

The come-from-behind victory was Nebraska's first when trailing at the half since 2003, when it rallied from a 10-9 halftime deficit to defeat Penn State 18-10 at Memorial Stadium. **DAVID DYKES** kicked four field goals and quarterback **JAMMAL LORD** scored a touchdown for the Cornhuskers that day.

"I think our team is growing character-wise. I think they're growing in their confidence. Where we need to keep growing is in our consistency and execution," coach **BO PELINI** said.

"Our guys aren't getting rattled right now when things happen to them, not as rattled as their head coach does. That's not doing much for my blood pressure, but ultimately, we just need to fix the things that are hurting us, make people beat us. We can't beat ourselves."

## THIRD-DOWN EFFICIENCY

Nebraska converted 11-of-17 third downs. Baylor didn't convert on 10 third-down attempts. "That's huge," said junior nose tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH**, who tied with safety **LARRY ASANTE** with a team-high seven tackles. "We always want to get off the field. Our coaches always preach to us that when we have a team in a tough situation, we want to keep them there. And if we have to give up a couple of yards, make sure it's play-the-chains and get off the field."

## CORNHUSKER KEEP-AWAY

For a third consecutive game, the Cornhuskers controlled the ball on the opposition, running 83 offensive plays to Baylor's 53. The Cornhuskers' time-of-possession advantage was 38:37 to 21:23. In the last three games, Nebraska has had 241 offensive snaps to 155 for the opposition.

# QUICKLY

## INJURIES

Wide receiver **MENELIK HOLT** was helped from the field with 2:21 remaining in the first quarter, and middle linebacker **PHILLIP DILLARD** had to be helped from the field with 1:07 remaining in the third quarter. Neither was able to return to action. Coach **BO PELINI** said of Dillard that x-rays on an ankle were negative. "He was very sore to the touch on that ankle," said Pelini. "But I think he'll be OK." As for Holt, "that's a deal we'll have to evaluate later on. I don't think it's season-ending."

## CAPTAINS

The Cornhusker captains were senior wide receiver **NATE SWIFT**, senior defensive end **ZACH POTTER** and junior safeties **MATT O'HANLON** and **RICKEY THENARSE**.

## STREAK ENDS

Sophomore place-kicker **ALEX HENERY** missed an extra-point kick in the fourth quarter, ending a streak of 77 in a row to begin his career at Nebraska.

## GETTING BETTER

Nebraska had three sacks, bringing its total to 16 for the season. The Cornhuskers managed only 13 sacks in 12 games last season.

## NO TAKEAWAYS

Four the fourth time in the last five games, Nebraska didn't have a takeaway. Baylor fumbled once but recovered. The Cornhuskers fumbled three times, losing one.



## SUMMARY

### SCORING

Oct. 25, 2008  
Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.  
Attendance: 85,104

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Tot
Baylor	14	6	0	0	20
Nebraska	7	10	7	8	32

#### First Quarter

NU	Hill Pass from Ganz 6-yards (Henery Kick) 07:42 Drive: 6 plays 39 yds 3:02	0	7
----	--	---	---

BU	Finley 43-yard Run (Parks Kick) 07:03 Drive: 3 plays 63 yds 0:35	7	7
----	--	---	---

BU	Griffin 47-yard Run (Parks Kick) 02:26 Drive: 5 plays 96 yds 1:37	14	7
----	---	----	---

#### Second Quarter

NU	Henery 27-yard Field Goal 05:41 Drive: 14 plays 57 yds 6:16	14	10
----	---	----	----

NU	Lucky 18-yard Run (Henery Kick) 02:06 Drive: 4 plays 36 yds 1:35	14	17
----	--	----	----

BU	Jones 1-yard Run (Parks Kick Failed) 00:17 Drive: 6 plays 80 yds 1:49	20	17
----	---	----	----

#### Third Quarter

NU	Swift Pass from Ganz 9-yards (Henery Kick) 01:15 Drive: 12 plays 80 yds 4:34	20	24
----	--	----	----

#### Fourth Quarter

NU	Swift Pass from Ganz 9-yards (Henery Kick Failed) 12:11 Drive: 4 plays 65 yds 0:42	20	30
----	--	----	----

NU	Safety 06:59	20	32
----	-----------------	----	----

## TEAM STATS

	BU	NU
Total First Downs	16	26
Rushing	8	9
Passing	5	17
Penalty	3	0
Rushing Attempts	33	37
Yards Gained Rushing	248	169
Yards Lost Rushing	32	8
Net Yards Rushing	216	161
Net Yards Passing	134	336
Passes Attempted	20	46
Passes Completed	9	32
Had Intercepted	0	0
Percent Completion	45.0%	69.6%
Yards per Attempt	6.7	7.3
Yards per Completion	14.9	10.5
Total Offensive Plays	53	83
Total Net Yards	350	497
Avg. Gain Per Play	6.6	6.0
Fumbles: No-Lost	1-0	3-1
Penalties: No-Yards	6-39	6-70
Punts: No-Yards	6-267	3-130
Avg. Per Punt	44.5	43.3
Avg. Net Punt	39.7	43.3
Punt Returns: No-Yards	0-0	2-29
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards	3-40	4-59
Interception Returns: No-Yards	0-0	0-0
Fumble Returns: No-Yards	0-0	0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	21:23	38:37
Third-Down Conversions	0-10	11-17
Percentage	0.0%	64.7%
Fourth-Down Conversions	1-2	0-1
Percentage	50.0%	0.0%
Sacks By: No-Yards	2-5	3-22

## OFFENSIVE INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

### NEBRASKA

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Lucky	16	85	2	83	5.2	1	18
Ganz	11	47	5	42	3.8	0	17
Castille	7	31	0	31	4.4	0	8
Helu Jr.	2	6	0	6	3.0	0	3
TEAM	1	0	1	-1	-1.0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Ganz	46	32	69.6	0	336	3	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>69.6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>69</b>

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Swift	11	121	2	53
Lucky	3	82	0	69
Peterson	6	57	0	12
Paul	5	34	0	13
McNeill	4	24	0	8
Holt	1	8	0	8
Hill	1	6	1	6
Young	1	4	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>69</b>

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Paul	1	19	0	19
Swift	1	10	0	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Paul	4	59	0	19

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Titchener	3	43.3	47	0	0	0	0	2

Field Goals	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Henery	1	2	27	1

Defense	Solo	Ast	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Asante	4	3	7	1.5-4	1-4	0	0	0
Suh	3	4	7	0.5-1	0-0	0	0	0
Potter	1	4	5	0.5-1	0-0	0	0	0
Dillard	4	0	4	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Glenn	2	2	4	1.5-6	0-0	0	0	0
Hagg	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Allen	1	2	3	1-7	1-7	0	0	0
Amukamara	2	1	3	1-11	1-11	0	0	0
O'Hanlon	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Holt	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Koehler	1	0	1	1-2	0-0	0	0	0
May	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Murillo	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Sievers	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Steinkuhler	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Wald	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
West	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Wortman	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

Interception Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
None				

### BAYLOR

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Griffin	16	149	28	121	7.6	1	47
Finley	14	92	4	88	6.3	1	43
Wright	2	6	0	6	3.0	0	3
Jones	1	1	0	1	1.0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>47</b>

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Griffin	20	9	45.0	0	134	0	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>44</b>

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Wright	3	60	0	44
Smith	1	35	0	35
Fenty	2	21	0	13
White	3	18	0	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>44</b>

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
None				

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Baker	2	32	0	24
Mitchell	1	8	0	8

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Epperson	6	44.5	65	0	1	2	3	1

Field Goals	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Parks	0	1	0	0

Defense	Solo	Ast	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Lake	9	6	15	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Johnson	2	9	11	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Pawelek	5	5	10	0-0	0-0	0	1	1
Jones	4	4	8	1-2	0-0	1	0	0
Patin	7	1	8	2-5	2-5	0	1	0
La Mar	2	4	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Williams	1	5	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Atchison	2	3	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Bryan	3	1	4	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Lamb	1	3	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Bryant	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Buerck	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Freeman	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Rhodes	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hill	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Judy	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
King	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Robertson	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Scotton	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Washington	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Washington	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

Interception Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
None				

## NEBRASKA SEASON LEADERS

Rushing	G	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Lucky, Marlon	8	103	480	25	455	4.4	7	58	56.9
Helu Jr., Roy	8	50	302	8	294	5.9	2	50	36.8
Castille, Q.	8	58	240	12	228	3.9	3	19	28.5
Ganz, Joe	8	53	231	75	156	2.9	3	33	19.5
Mendoza, Marcus	3	5	47	2	45	9.0	0	35	15.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>1326</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>1193</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>149.1</b>
Opponent	G	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Ganz, Joe	8	270	189	70.0	6	2303	15	69	287.9
Witt, Patrick	2	6	4	66.7	0	40	0	23	20.0
Lucky, Marlon	8	1	1	100.0	0	20	1	20	2.5
Wesch, Jake	8	1	1	100.0	0	8	0	8	1.0
Lee, Zac	1	2	1	50.0	0	5	0	5	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2376</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>297.0</b>
Opponent	G	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Swift, Nate	8	44	607	13.8	6	61	75.9		
Peterson, Todd	8	40	454	11.3	2	25	56.8		
Holt, Menelik	8	25	278	11.1	1	25	34.8		
Lucky, Marlon	8	20	272	13.6	1	69	34.0		
McNeill, Mike	8	18	250	13.9	3	35	31.2		
Paul, Niles	8	16	145	9.1	0	21	18.1		
Helu Jr., Roy	8	10	137	13.7	0	27	17.1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>2376</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>297.0</b>		
Opponent	G	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Swift, Nate	8	44	607	13.8	6	61	75.9		
Peterson, Todd	8	40	454	11.3	2	25	56.8		
Holt, Menelik	8	25	278	11.1	1	25	34.8		
Lucky, Marlon	8	20	272	13.6	1	69	34.0		
McNeill, Mike	8	18	250	13.9	3	35	31.2		
Paul, Niles	8	16	145	9.1	0	21	18.1		
Helu Jr., Roy	8	10	137	13.7	0	27	17.1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>2376</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>297.0</b>		
Opponent	G	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Glenn, Cody	44	4-20	0-0						
Asante, Larry	42	1-4	1-4						
Suh, Ndamukong	41	6-25	2-15						
Dillard, P.	38	1-9	0-6						
Allen, Pierre	34	4-18	2-9						
Steinkuhler, Ty	34	1-4	0-1						
O'Hanlon, Matt	33	1-2	0-0						
Murillo, A.	30	1-1	0-0						
Potter, Zach	30	4-27	2-23						
Hagg, Eric	28	1-5	0-0						
Amukamara, P.	25	1-11	1-11						
Thorell, Lance	20	0-0	0-0						



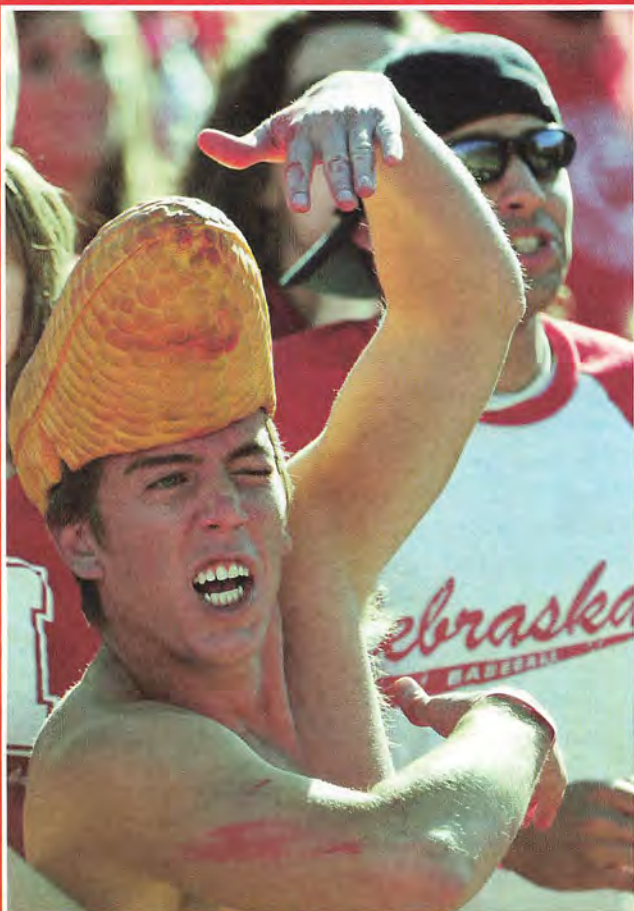
**2008 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE**

Sat., Aug. 30	Western Michigan	Memorial Stadium	W, 47-24
Sat., Sept. 6	San Jose State	Memorial Stadium	W, 35-12
Sat., Sept. 13	New Mexico State	Memorial Stadium	W, 38-7
Sat., Sept. 27	Virginia Tech	Memorial Stadium	L, 30-35
Sat., Oct. 4	#4/3 Missouri	Memorial Stadium	L, 17-52
Sat., Oct. 11	#7 Texas Tech	at Lubbock, Texas	L, 31-37 (OT)
Sat., Oct. 18	Iowa State	at Ames, Iowa	W, 35-7
Sat., Oct. 25	Baylor	Memorial Stadium	W, 32-20
Sat., Nov. 1	Oklahoma	at Norman, Okla.	7 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 8	Kansas	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Nov. 15	Kansas State	at Manhattan, Kan.	TBA
Fri., Nov. 28	Colorado	Memorial Stadium	2:30 p.m. (ABC)
Sat., Dec. 6	Big 12 Championship	at Kansas City, Mo. (Arrowhead Stadium)	7 p.m. (ABC)

**THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION**
**NEBRASKA vs. OKLAHOMA**


NOVEMBER 1, 2008

HUSKERS WILL NEED TO DIG INTO THEIR BAG OF TRICKS TO STAY ON TOP OF THINGS WHEN THEY PAY A VISIT TO SOONER NATION!

**FAN OF THE GAME**


Pat Lane, a native of Bellevue, Neb., and junior at the University of Nebraska, gets into the game.

**THIS WEEK'S PICKS**

**AARON BABCOCK, Editor**
**Last Week: (5-0)**
**Season: (30-9)**

Nebraska at Oklahoma

OU 42-35

Texas at Texas Tech

UT 35-31

Kansas State at Kansas

KU 45-30

Iowa State at Oklahoma State

OSU 63-7

Missouri at Baylor

MU 55-17


**MIKE BABCOCK, Contributing Editor**
**Last Week: (4-1)**
**Season: (32-7)**

Nebraska at Oklahoma

OU 42-24

Texas at Texas Tech

UT 45-42

Kansas State at Kansas

KU 45-31

Iowa State at Oklahoma State

OSU 56-10

Missouri at Baylor

MU 49-21


**TERRY DOUGLASS, Grand Island Independent**
**Last Week: (4-1)**
**Season: (30-9)**

Nebraska at Oklahoma

OU 45-27

Texas at Texas Tech

TT 38-35

Kansas State at Kansas

KU 47-37

Iowa State at Oklahoma State

OSU 55-0

Missouri at Baylor

MU 50-20


**MATT DAVISON, Husker Sports Network**
**Last Week: (4-1)**
**Season: (32-7)**

Nebraska at Oklahoma

OU 31-27

Texas at Texas Tech

UT 37-31

Kansas State at Kansas

KU 34-21

Iowa State at Oklahoma State

OSU 42-13

Missouri at Baylor

MU 41-27


**SEAN CALLAHAN, HuskersIllustrated.com**
**Last Week: (4-1)**
**Season: (27-7)**

Nebraska at Oklahoma

OU 38-28

Texas at Texas Tech

UT 48-45

Kansas State at Kansas

KU 52-38

Iowa State at Oklahoma State

OSU 55-13

Missouri at Baylor

MU 58-27



# Former Husker assistant enjoying life as a Sooner

BY STEVEN M. SIPPLE



**JAY NORVELL** endured his share of tumult as an assistant coach in recent years.

His time at Nebraska (2004-06) wasn't exactly a cakewalk. He left Lincoln, Neb., for UCLA after the 2006 season because he wanted to call plays on offense. The Bruins finished 6-7 last season, and 99th in total offense, and the coaching staff was replaced.

Even so, Norvell described 2007 as "the greatest experience I've had in coaching." He essentially took a chance and learned from the experience. UCLA jumped to No. 11 in the national rankings after two games. But then the Bruins were stunned by Utah, 44-6, and injuries began to accumulate, especially at quarterback and tailback. UCLA was down to a third-string walk-on at QB.

Norvell now hopes to find some stability at Oklahoma. Currently in his first season as Sooners' receivers coach/assistant offensive coordinator, Norvell was a college teammate of Bob Stoops at Iowa and long had wanted to work with the OU head coach. Norvell actually worked a short stint in Norman six years ago. It lasted only a month before he departed for the NFL Oakland Raiders.

Norvell now envisions a longer stay at Oklahoma, although in the increasingly unstable profession of college football coaching, you never know. Fans' and athletic administrators' money-driven, win-now mentality has the coaching job carousel turning at record speed.

During the off-season, Norvell had a chance to step

back and gain perspective. He recalled attending little league games – he has a son, Jaden, in grade school – and watching the young players' progress.

"In the first game of the season, none of these kids could even hit the ball," Norvell said. However, "After a month and a half into the season, they're tearing the cover off of it."

"The thing you have to remember about college football is it takes time for kids to develop. You don't just throw everyone into a microwave and expect them to be great players. It just doesn't happen that way. You have to realize we're dealing with 18- to 22-year-old kids who need to grow and mature and develop and become leaders.

I think it's why coaches got into this game – to help kids do that. Sometimes it gets lost in the big picture."

He doesn't envision the ultra-high expectations and pressure to win subsiding.

"I don't think we're going backwards, buddy," he said.

He's in the thick of it now, the thick of the pressure cooker that is Oklahoma football. And come Nov. 1, when OU plays Nebraska, he'll be in the thick of the renewal of a glorious rivalry that's still capable of eliciting goose bumps even among casual fans of the college game.

Norvell said he understood

the passion of the rivalry when he was at Nebraska, a period in which Oklahoma got the best of NU three straight times.

"I felt a responsibility to the rivalry the first day I stepped on campus at Nebraska," he said. "When I first thought of having the opportunity to coach at Nebraska, that ball game was the first thing I thought about."

The Stoops-Bo Pelini connection figures to further strengthen the friendliness and respect aspects of the rivalry – not that the coaching staffs of the schools were contentious during 2004-06, Norvell said.

"Because of a couple incidents, people thought it was different, but it really wasn't," he said.

## OKLAHOMA QUICK FACTS

**Head coach:** Bob Stoops (103-23 in nine-plus years, all at OU)  
**Enrollment:** 29,721  
**Colors:** Crimson and Cream  
**Conference:** Big 12  
**2007 record:** 11-3 (6-2 Big 12)  
**Starters returning/lost:** 11/10  
**Series record:** OU leads 43-37-3

## 2008 SCHEDULE

8/30	Chattanooga, W, 57-2
9/6	Cincinnati, W, 52-26
9/13	at Washington, W, 55-14
9/27	TCU, W, 35-10
10/4	at Baylor, W, 49-17
10/11	Texas, L, 45-35
10/18	Kansas, W, 45-31
10/25	at Kansas State, W, 58-35
11/1	Nebraska
11/8	at Texas A&M
11/22	Texas Tech
11/29	at Oklahoma State



# OKLAHOMA ROSTER

#	QUARTERBACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
12	Jones, Landry	QB	6-4	210	Fr.
6	Sherrard, Ben	QB	6-4	215	Fr.
14	Bradford, Sam*	QB	6-5	213	So.
15	Halzle, Joey**	QB	6-3	208	Sr.
5	Nimmo, John	QB	6-1	190	So.

#	OFFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
63	Hampton, Ben	DS	6-3	250	Jr.
56	Morrison, Sean	DS	6-4	225	RFr.
46	Winchester, James	DS	6-1	205	Fr.
52	Shaw, Derek**	DS	6-1	210	Jr.
64	Cooke, Kody	OL	6-4	315	RFr.
77	Good, Stephen	OL	6-5	305	Fr.
61	Habern, Ben	OL	6-4	275	Fr.
54	Hannan, Jason	OL	6-3	270	RFr.
51	Lepak, Brian	OL	6-4	285	Jr.
79	Loadholt, Phil*	OL	6-8	350	Sr.
59	Stephenson, Donald	OL	6-6	275	RFr.
78	Williams, Alex	OL	6-5	300	RFr.
70	Brandon, Cory	OL	6-7	295	So.
76	Braxton, Brannon**	OL	6-6	312	Sr.
50	Cooper, Jon**	OL	6-2	285	Sr.
72	Robinson, Duke**	OL	6-5	330	Sr.
74	Simmons, Brian**	OL	6-4	293	Jr.
73	Walker, Brandon**	OL	6-3	306	Sr.
71	Williams, Trent**	OL	6-5	321	Jr.

#	RUNNING BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
23	Calhoun, Jermie	RB	6-0	210	Fr.
25	Johnson, Justin	RB	6-1	210	Fr.
29	Brown, Chris**	RB	5-10	190	Jr.
35	Gove, Derek	RB	5-9	185	Sr.
17	Madu, Mossis*	RB	5-11	190	So.
7	Murray, DeMarco*	RB	6-0	191	So.
40	Buchanan, Buck	FB	6-2	230	RFr.
34	Clapp, Matt*	FB	6-2	244	Jr.

#	RECEIVERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
82	Hanna, James	TE	6-4	215	Fr.
41	New, Josh	TE	6-3	235	So.
47	Ratterree, Trent	TE	6-3	220	RFr.
89	Smith, Kolby	TE	6-3	248	Sr.
49	Toms, James	TE	6-4	235	Fr.
83	Eldridge, Brody**	TE	6-5	258	Jr.
18	Gresham, Jermaine**	TE	6-6	250	Jr.
88	Mensik, Eric	TE	6-5	246	So.
85	Broyles, Ryan	WR	6-0	170	RFr.
20	Givens, Zac	WR	5-11	180	So.
39	Hutchins, Rashad	WR	5-10	180	RFr.
24	Miller, Dejuan	WR	6-5	200	Fr.
4	Owens, Jameel	WR	6-3	200	Fr.
11	Wilson, Corey	WR	6-0	185	RFr.
8	Caleb, Brandon*	WR	6-1	196	So.
84	Chaney, Quentin**	WR	6-4	213	Sr.
9	Iglesias, Jaquinn**	WR	6-1	201	Sr.
1	Johnson, Manuel**	WR	5-11	177	Sr.
80	Tennell, Adron**	WR	6-4	184	Jr.
81	Whitson, Carter	WR	5-11	190	Jr.

#	DEFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
84	Alexander, Frank	DE	6-5	235	RFr.
99	Bumpus, Jonte	DE	6-4	220	RFr.
90	King, David	DE	6-4	240	Fr.
91	Washington, R.J.	DE	6-4	242	Fr.
44	Beal, Jeremy*	DE	6-4	254	So.
95	Davis, Alan*	DE	6-2	253	Sr.
33	English, Auston*	DE	6-3	257	Jr.
62	Jimoh, Tola	DE	6-0	228	Jr.
94	Macon, Pryce	DE	6-1	260	So.
92	McGee, Stacy	DL	6-4	260	Fr.
53	Walker, Casey	DL	6-3	285	Fr.
97	Bennett, Cory**	DT	6-2	278	Sr.
96	Granger, DeMarcus**	DT	6-3	300	Jr.
93	McCoy, Gerald*	DT	6-4	289	So.
89	Moore, Cordero	DT	6-2	297	Jr.
86	Taylor, Adrian*	DT	6-4	293	So.

#	DEFENSIVE BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
26	Bowers, Brett	DB	6-0	201	Jr.
14	Edwards, Sean	DB	5-9	170	RFr.
39	Ferguson, Eli	DB	5-8	180	So.
32	Fleming, Jamell	DB	5-11	187	RFr.
19	Harris, Lamar	DB	6-5	180	Fr.
41	Ibiloye, Joseph	DB	6-4	205	Fr.
6	Jackson, Desmond	DB	5-11	187	RFr.
25	Jones, Emmanuel	DB	5-11	190	Jr.
43	Prince, Marloe	DB	5-11	175	Jr.
27	Proctor, Sam	DB	6-0	202	RFr.
18	Carter, Cortney	DB	5-10	180	Sr.
20	Carter, Quinton*	DB	6-1	190	Jr.
15	Franks, Dominique*	DB	5-11	183	So.
5	Harris, Nic**	DB	6-3	226	Sr.
13	Hayes, Michael	DB	5-10	190	So.
11	Holmes, Lendy**	DB	6-1	196	Sr.
2	Jackson, Brian**	DB	6-1	190	Jr.
3	Nelson, Jonathan	DB	5-11	176	So.

#	LINEBACKERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
10	Balogun, Mike	LB	6-2	250	Jr.
12	Box, Austin	LB	6-3	220	RFr.
21	Bryant, J.R.	LB	6-3	230	Jr.
31	Franklin, Daniel	LB	6-3	220	Fr.
57	Hughey, Dylan	LB	6-0	210	Fr.
28	Lewis, Travis	LB	6-2	220	RFr.
49	Marr, John	LB	6-1	215	RFr.
45	Troup, Turner	LB	6-1	210	RFr.
22	Clayton, Keenan**	LB	6-1	210	Jr.
48	Crow, Brandon	LB	6-1	220	So.
8	Reynolds, Ryan**	LB	6-1	237	Jr.
30	Robinson, Lamont	LB	6-0	227	Jr.

#	KICKERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
37	Moreland, Matthew	K	6-1	195	RFr.
17	Stevens, Jimmy	K	5-6	170	RFr.
36	Way, Tress	K	6-1	190	Fr.
13	Knall, Mike**	P	5-9	178	Sr.

## NEBRASKA TENTATIVE 2-DEEPS

OFFENSE					
WR	87	Swift, Nate	6-2	200	Sr.
	4	Menelik Holt	6-4	220	Jr.
	8	Will Henry	6-5	220	So.
LT	72	Jaivorio Burkes	6-5	325	So.
(or)	65	Smith, Mike	6-6	285	So.

LG	68	Keith Williams	6-5	305	So.
(or)	61	Mike Huff	6-4	300	Sr.
C	67	Jacob Hickman	6-4	290	Jr.
	58	Mike Caputo	6-1	275	RFr.
RG	70	Matt Slauson	6-5	320	Sr.
	73	D.J. Jones	6-5	305	So.

RT	76	Murtha, Lydon	6-7	315	Sr.
	78	Marcel Jones	6-7	310	RFr.
TE	44	Mike McNeill	6-4	240	So.
	49	Dreu Young	6-4	245	So.
	89	Hunter Teafatiller	6-3	240	Sr.

WR	17	Todd Peterson	6-4	215	Sr.
	24	Niles Paul	6-1	210	So.
(or)	11	Curenski Gilleylen	6-0	210	RFr.
QB	12	Joe Ganz	6-1	210	Sr.
	2	Patrick Witt	6-4	225	RFr.
	3	Zac Lee	6-2	210	So.
IB	5	Marlon Lucky	6-0	215	Sr.
(or)	10	Roy Helu Jr.	6-0	215	So.
(or)	29	Quentin Castille	6-1	235	So.
FB	36	Thomas Lawson	6-0	250	Sr.
	89	Hunter Teafatiller	6-3	240	Sr.

DEFENSE					
DE	98	Zach Potter	6-7	280	Sr.
	88	Clayton Sievers	6-4	255	Sr.
NT	93	Ndamukong Suh	6-4	300	Jr.
	56	Shukree Barfield	6-4	290	Sr.
	90	Terrence Moore	6-3	275	RFr.

DT	43	Ty Steinkuhler	6-3	280	Sr.
	94	Jared Crick	6-6	280	RFr.
DE	95	Pierre Allen	6-5	265	So.
	96	Cameron Meredith	6-4	235	Fr.

WLB	34	Cody Glenn	6-0	235	Sr.
	40	Blake Lawrence	6-3	225	So.

MLB	52	Phillip Dillard	6-1	235	Jr.
	51	Will Compton	6-2	230	Fr.
	54	Colton Koehler	6-1	230	Jr.

BLB	53	Tyler Wortman	6-3	235	Sr.
	42	Sean Fisher	6-6	225	Fr.
	7	Latravis Washington	6-3	225	So.

RC	5	Anthony West	6-0	200	So.
	21	Prince Amukamara	6-1	195	So.
	23	Lance Thorell	6-1	190	RFr.

LC	6	Armando Murillo	6-0	190	Sr.
	28	Eric Hagg	6-1	200	So.
	15	Alfonzo Dennard	5-10	190	Fr.

SS	4	Larry Asante	6-1	210	Jr.
	2	Major Culbert	6-0	205	Jr.
FS	33	Matt O'Hanlon	5-11	195	Jr.
(or)	3	Rickey Thenarse	6-0	195	Jr.

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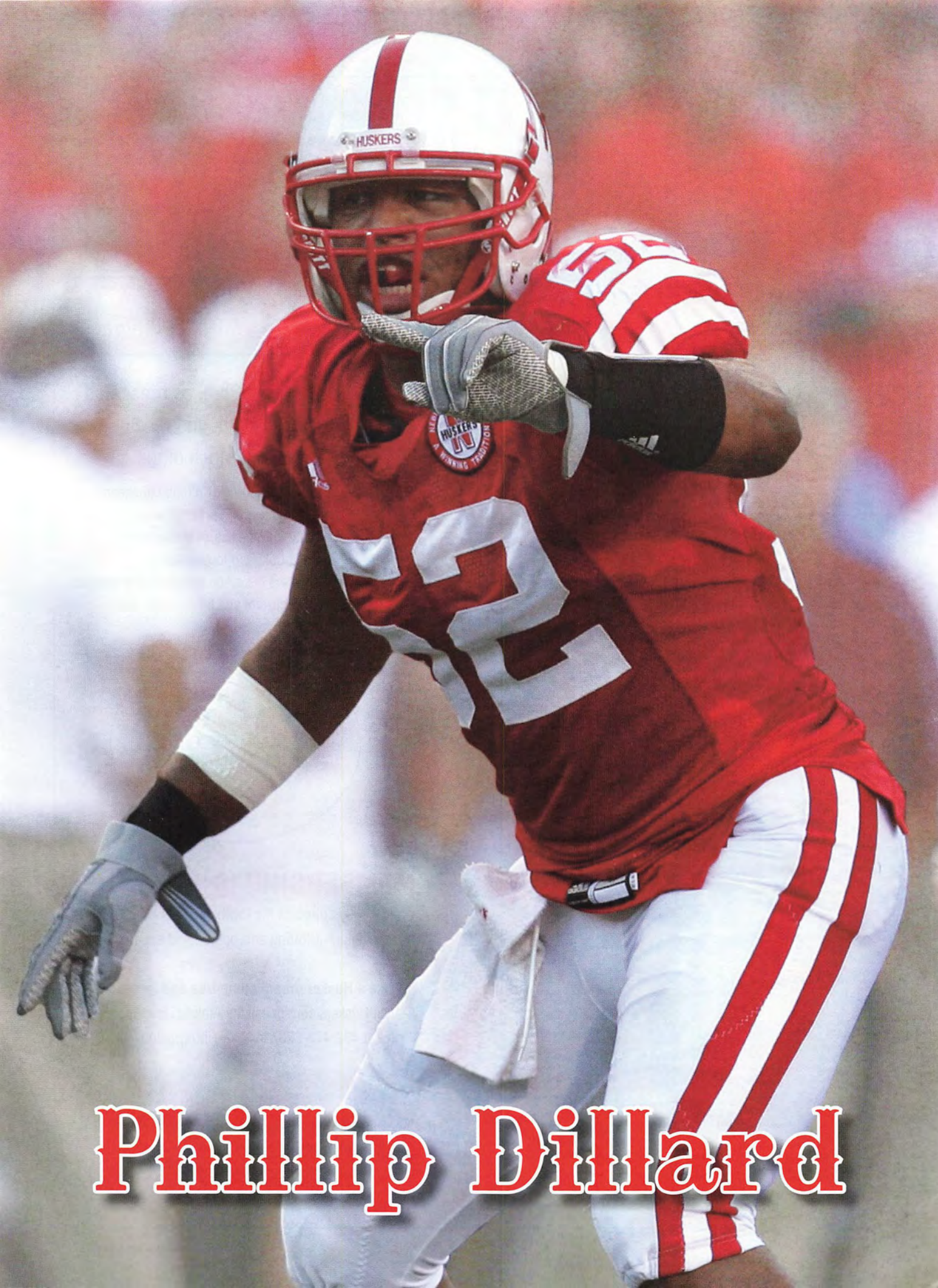
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with keynote speaker Marvin Sanders, Husker Secondary Coach





**Phillip Dillard**



# True Competitor

P

hillip Dillard recently missed a Nebraska football game.

It was not by his choice, mind you. The junior linebacker was injured. He'd hurt his knee during the Huskers' previous game, and he missed valuable practice time the next week.

By the time Nebraska – coming off a frustrating, disappointing 52-17 home loss to Missouri – was ready to face high-powered Texas Tech, the coaching decision had been made to sit Dillard.

Sure, he could have played in an emergency situation. The thought, however, was that Dillard hadn't practiced enough with Nebraska's game plan throughout the week. Perhaps he wouldn't be ready to respond properly in a key tilt against a Top 10 team.

Dillard still traveled to Lubbock, and he suited for the game. But he stood on the sideline, his knee wrapped, as a true freshman walk-on, Matt Holt, started in his place.

What Nebraska linebackers coach Mike Ekeler saw from Dillard that day was a testament to how much Dillard has matured as a player. There on the sideline, with little hope of playing that day, was Dillard, coaching, shouting instructions, and "doing a great job," according to Ekeler.

Unhappy? You bet Dillard was unhappy. But it's how he dealt with the disappointment of not playing that pleased Ekeler.

No sulking, no complaining. No time for that.

"He was not happy he didn't play," Ekeler said, "and I told him if he was happy, he needs to be somewhere else, because you're not a competitor if you don't want to be out there."

The next week in practice, Ekeler saw just how much Dillard missed not playing. He saw a faster, fresher version of Dillard. So impressed was Ekeler that he joked with Dillard about how he was going to "hurt his other knee."

BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

Would Dillard have responded the same way last season? Perhaps that's a moot point, although many who've been around Dillard have seen more smiles, more laughs, and a more open side from the player who admittedly was disgruntled throughout much of his Nebraska career.

"I know that we've got each other's back, and we didn't feel that before, except for maybe like Steve (Octavien) and the defensive line, like (Adam) Carriker and them. I like those guys," Dillard said. "But now, I feel comfortable."

Dillard, a native of Tulsa, points to the arrival of Bo Pelini and his coaching staff, most notably Ekeler, as reasons behind his fresh

outlook on football.

"They're honest with you, and they're making guys feel comfortable, and they're shooting you straight," Dillard said. "It just makes guys feel comfortable. You mess up, you mess up. They help you and tell you what's wrong."

Ekeler said when he arrived in Lincoln last winter, he saw a person in Dillard who didn't want to trust people.

"I think from Day One, Bo and myself, we just looked him in the eye and we shot him straight," Ekeler said. "He knew that about us. He might not like what's being said all the time, but he knows that it's straight. I think that was the biggest thing."

"Just like anybody, when somebody may not be real trusting, it's over the course of time that you earn their trust and kind of go from there. Phil knows. All of our guys know. I'll say anything in front of the whole group. We don't have any closed-door meetings. It is what it is. I'll put it out there, and we'll deal with it."

Ekeler said maybe that's something he's taken for granted in his young career as an assistant coach. When you're fortunate to be coaching in recent years at successful schools like LSU and Oklahoma, there's a different dynamic. Fewer individual "issues" seem



**"IF HE WAS**  
my son, I'd be one of the proudest guys in the world. I just think the world of him as a person, and as a player."

LINEBACKER COACH  
MIKE EKELER ON  
PHILLIP DILLARD



to exist when you're playing for national championships.

"You come in here, everybody's an individual, everybody has goals, everybody has issues, and (Dillard) had his own set of issues," Ekeler said. "I think he did a great job of working through them, and I think he trusts the heck out of Bo.

"He trusts me, he trusts all of us as coaches."

Dillard has experience in putting his trust in different people, and enjoying positive, life-changing results, too.

When Dillard was finishing the fourth grade, his mother was very ill, suffering from problems with her kidneys and heart. It became difficult for her to care for her youngest child, then 11 years old.

That's when Dillard, ready to begin the fifth grade, went to live with friends of his mother, Tyrone and Ronda Lynne. They became Dillard's official guardians, and he remained with the Lynne family.

"It was pretty hard, because I didn't want to leave my mom," Dillard said. "But as time went on, I kind of got used to it. I was like, 'Well, this happened, it was probably better for me.' And it ended up being better for me.

"Obviously, it was the right move. It worked."

For one thing, it gave Dillard two younger siblings, Gabe and T.J. Gabe, in fact, is a touted football recruit himself, with offers from more than 40 schools, including Nebraska.

"I just tell him to go wherever he feels comfortable, or wherever he feels safe," Dillard said. "Wherever he thinks he can make an impact and help the team, or get early play, or whatever fits him better. I'm not going to try to force him into anything."

In his natural family, Dillard was the youngest of four. Suddenly, he had to be a role model of sorts.

"Having them look up to me," he said, "it helped me grow up a lot faster."

Becoming a part of the Lynne family also gave Dillard a new opportunity with sports, he said. He'd always watched sports and was interested, but now he became more involved

in team competition.

Dillard eventually became a star at Jenks High School, a well-known powerhouse in Oklahoma. When Nebraska plays at Oklahoma, Dillard will see some familiar faces in Sooner uniforms, including the quarterback Sam Bradford.

"He threw for about 390-some yards and two touchdowns, but we still beat them," Dillard said, referring to Bradford's performance against Jenks in a Class 6A state semifinal game. "It was a game that went down to the last 5 seconds. He's a good quarterback."

Dillard said he understands and



appreciates the history of the Nebraska-Oklahoma rivalry, too. Though not a Sooner fan growing up – Dillard preferred watching games involving Miami and Florida State – he knows the importance Oklahoma fans place on the Nebraska game.

"In Oklahoma, they always talk about the Texas game being a big one, and Oklahoma State, but everybody knows Oklahoma-Nebraska, too," he said. "They just make a big deal out of it. In Oklahoma, you always catch that game."

Dillard's first OU-Nebraska memory was the 2000 game in Norman, when the Sooners upended Eric Crouch and Nebraska en route to a surprising national championship season.

Dillard said he also knows current OU players Dominique Franks, Ryan Reynolds and DeMarcus Granger, with whom he played in the U.S. Army All-American game.

These are all acquaintances and experiences Dillard isn't certain he'd have

without the guidance of the Lynne family.

"He's got guardians who are unbelievable people," Ekeler said. "He's unbelievably fortunate to have great parents. Everybody's got different dynamics that they deal with throughout their life, and obviously that's one that Phil's had to deal with. He also understands how blessed he is and how fortunate he is to have multiple parents, and great parents."

Dillard's birth mother still lives in Tulsa, about four miles from the Lynne family. He talks to her every day, he said. Her health is fine, but she requires multiple trips to the doctor each week.

"She's good now," Dillard said. "As long as she keeps doing her stuff, she stays fine."

Dillard's father died of a heart attack last spring, after he had suffered from a stroke. He lived in Paola, Kan., at the time of his death.

"I don't think anybody who's grown up in a traditional household, or semi-traditional household, could probably really relate (to what Dillard experienced)," Ekeler said. "But, it just shows a couple of things. Number one, it shows there are people out there like his guardians

who are incredible people, who go out of their way to bring a child into their home and raise him as their son.

"And then it also shows you a guy like Phil can balance it and can turn into a great person. He's a great guy."

Dillard had offers from in-state schools Oklahoma and Oklahoma State but chose Nebraska despite the opportunity to remain close to his family, including his ill mother. It's only a 6-hour drive, he thought, and he wanted to go to the school where he felt most comfortable.

Perhaps it took longer than expected, but Dillard is indeed finally comfortable as a Husker.

"I tell you what, that guy, he's a great competitor," Ekeler said. "He prepares hard, and he's a great leader. If he was my son, I'd be one of the proudest guys in the world. I just think the world of him as a person, and as a player." **N**



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# Around the Horn

KALEENA HENNING



## BOWLING Henning improves self-discipline

BY TOMMY DAHLK

**B**owling always came easily to Husker senior Kaleena Henning. Throughout her childhood in North Platte, Neb., Henning rewrote the Nebraska female bowling record books and traveled all across the nation competing in tournaments.

So when she came to Lincoln last year after transferring from Mid-Plains Community College back home, Henning didn't need to spend a whole lot of time honing her physical skills in order to star on the next level.

She had to work on something else. "I've improved my self-discipline a lot," Henning said. "I've done a lot of sports

psychology stuff with my coaches and I see a sports psychologist and that's really helped me prepare for what's to come and my future."

It also has helped Henning in her preparation before tournaments and her focus during competitions and practice.

Heading into her senior year, Henning is captain of the Huskers and looks to improve on last year's 188.90 average. Her team will also look to win its first National Title since 2005.

With Henning and fellow All-Americans, junior Cassandra Leuthold and sophomore Katie Ann Sopp, returning, Henning said she likes the Huskers' chances.

"With our potential and coaches, I definitely see great things," Henning said.

Henning is the lone senior on the team,



but she'll be back for the 2009-10 season. After transferring from Mid-Plains, she was granted three years of eligibility.

She chose to go to Mid-Plains back home in North Platte because she wanted to compete in some more tournaments for scholarship money. Plus, she wanted the chance to experience a small-school atmosphere before heading to Lincoln. Attending UNL was her plan ever since she was young.

Living in Lincoln is a big change from North Platte. Henning said she is loving every minute of it. She has lived in the Selleck Quadrangle dormitory. Selleck houses many foreign students, and she said she's experienced things in Lincoln that she never imagined in North Platte.

"There are so many students," Henning said. "I've met people from so many countries and learned about their cultures. It's really not even comparable, and it's been nothing but a great experience for me." **N**

#### 2008-09 BOWLING ROSTER

NAME	YR.	HOMETOWN
Calberry, Valerie	Fr.	Brampton, Ontario
Henning, Kaleena	Sr.	North Platte, Neb.
Laugerman, Jasmine	So.	Brooklyn Center, Minn.
Leuthold, Cassandra	Jr.	Black Hawk, S.D.
McCarthy, Erin	Fr.	Omaha, Neb.
Mero, Chelsey	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb.
Mickelson, Kristina	Fr.	Bellevue, Neb.
Sopp, Katie Ann	So.	Circle Pines, Minn.
Stram, Kayla	So.	Grand Rapids, Minn.
van der Meer, Danielle	Fr.	Hilversum, Netherlands

#### 2008-09 BOWLING SCHEDULE

Nov 7-9	Wisconsin-Whitewater Invitational at Whitewater, Wis.
Nov 13-15	Maverick Challenge at Chicago, Ill.
Dec 5-7	Capital City Collegiate Classic at Jackson, Miss.
Jan 16-18	Mid-Winter Classic at Jonesboro, Ark.
Jan 23-25	Greater Ozark Invitational at Springfield, Mo.
Feb 14-15	Morgan State Invitational at Baltimore, Md.
Feb 28-Mar 1	Holiday Classic at Birmingham, Ala.
Mar 13-15	Music City Classic at Nashville, Tenn.
Apr 9-11	NCAA Championships at Detroit, Mich.

## HUSKER QUICK HITS



### HUSKERS' HOMETOWN

Lincoln, Neb., was ranked No. 90 among 400 in the Sporting News' Best Sports Cities for 2008. "Lincoln is one of the classic locales in college football, and when you're in Lincoln you'd better be talking about its beloved 'Huskers,'" according to *Sporting News* chief of correspondents Bob Hille.

"Big Red fans support their teams, win or lose, and that's part of what we're looking at when we put together these rankings."

First on the list was Boston, followed by Detroit-Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti, Dallas-Fort Worth, New York and Philadelphia. The Denver-Boulder area was seventh. Lawrence, Kan., was 15th, the highest-ranked individual city in the Big 12.

### NEWCOMER OF THE WEEK

The Husker soccer team's **KATIE GOETZMANN**, a redshirted freshman midfielder from Omaha, was named the Big 12 Newcomer of the Week after scoring a goal and assisting on another in a 3-0 victory against Texas Tech at the Nebraska Soccer Field.

The goal was Goetzmann's first at Nebraska, the margin of victory the Huskers' largest in conference play since 2005, when they defeated Texas Tech 4-1.

The match was the Huskers' last at home. Six seniors were honored beforehand: **SARI RABER**, **SELENIA IACCHELLI**, **BRITTANY PFEIL**, **AYSHA JAMANI**, **LINDSEY POEHLING** and **MCKENSIE KIRCHNER**, who served as student manager this season after playing three seasons.

### PRE-NATIONALS

Sophomore **LARACROFFORD** finished 10th to lead the Nebraska women's cross country team to ninth place at the Indiana State Pre-Nationals in Terre Haute, Ind. The Huskers went into the meet unranked nationally.

Crofford, who has been among the top-10 finishers at every meet this season, had a time of 20:39 in the field of 281. Other Huskers finishing in the top 100 were: **RACHEL CARRIZALES** (No. 50), **JEN PANCOAST** (No. 68) and **NATALJA ZARCENKO** (93rd).

Redshirted freshman **DAVID ADAMS** again led the Nebraska men, who finished 33rd. Adams finished 88th, with a time of 24:49.3.

Nebraska also sent teams to the Chile Pepper Festival in Fayetteville, Ark. Freshmen **KATIE WHITE** and **JESSICA FURLAN** led the women's team to a 24th-place finish (out of 39 teams), while sophomores **BRYCE SOMER** and **MATT CONAHAN** led the men's team to a 17th-place finish (out of 30 teams).

The teams will compete in the Big 12 Championship meet at Ames, Iowa, on Nov. 1.

### TOP 10 AGAIN

Junior **JC STEVENSON** shot a final-round 73 to finish in a sixth-place tie and lead the Husker women's golf team to a fourth-place finish at the Lady Pirate Intercollegiate at Greenville, N.C. The junior from Grand Island, Neb., finished with a 54-hole total 222 for a third top-10 finish of the season, and fourth consecutive top-15 finish.

The Huskers' **KATE WHITE** and **NATALIE GLEADALL** finished in a tie for 27th at 231. **MARY KATE BIRD** was tied for 51st at 236. **RACHEL HANIGAN** was tied for 67th at 241.

### PRESEASON RANKINGS

The Nebraska wrestling team was ranked sixth nationally in the pre-season coaches' poll released by USA Today/InterMat/NWCA, its highest ranking since 2004-05. Defending national champion Iowa was first, followed by Iowa State, Cornell, Ohio State and Missouri.

Five Huskers were individually ranked: **JORDAN BURROUGHS** (149), third; **STEPHEN DWYER** (165), fifth; **BRANDON BROWNE** (174), third; **VINCE JONES** (184), seventh; **CRAIG BRESTER** (197), fourth. Burroughs, Dwyer, Browne and Brester are returning All-Americans.



# Volleyball

RACHEL SCHWARTZ

BY BOB HAMAR

## Schwartz is leader behind the scenes

**T**here is something special about Rachel Schwartz. The Nebraska defensive specialist has a much more important role for the Huskers than you might think. She doesn't get much of the publicity. She won't be All-Big 12 or All-American.

But Schwartz, a walk-on senior from Lincoln East, is a huge part of the Husker team both on and off the court. Her leadership is part of the reason the Huskers got off to such a great start this season.

"Her leadership style is she's a giver, they all trust her," Nebraska coach John Cook said. "She's the one who takes them aside and talks to them. Like if Lindsey Licht had a really bad match, Rachel is back talking to her on the bus. That's Rachel. She is just a people person. She's like their best friend."

That factor might be overlooked by some, but Cook knows how important it is for this Husker volleyball team.

"It's huge," Cook said. "You have to have people that care about other people before themselves. That's essentially what she brings to our team. It's a great combination with Jordan (Larson) and Amanda (Gates). Nobody really notices that on the outside, but on the inside she's probably the most trusted player on our team when the other players need to talk to somebody."





Schwartz doesn't take any credit for that. She's just passing along what she learned from other Husker players over the years.

"I learned a lot from seniors in the past," Schwartz said. "I learned a lot from the coaches. Really all we want to do as seniors is to make it a fun environment, to make people feel comfortable. So we just wanted to make an effort to make friendships and build those friendships. That's what we've been focusing on."

It has certainly worked this season. The Huskers have been a confident team that is enjoying the experience of playing together. That's something that couldn't be said a year ago.

The 2007 Huskers were talented, more talented than this year, but everyone agrees that they didn't have the same chemistry that this team has.

"This team knew we were going to go through struggles and this team knew it wasn't going to be like any other Nebraska team," Schwartz said. "We're working on being authentic and that's what we're doing. We knew after those first couple games of the Big 12 that we had to step it up."

"That's kind of what we've been focusing on is just finding that fire, finding that intensity and not letting the other team dictate how we play."

It's not something that just happened at the start of the season. With Schwartz and the seniors leading the way, the Huskers worked hard over the off season to bring it all together. When they opened the season with back-to-back wins over then-No. 2 Stanford and then No.4-Southern Cal, they knew it was working.

"We worked not only with conditioning and weight lifting, but we really worked to bring unity to the team," Schwartz said. "When we did that, we weren't really for sure where we were going to be the first tournament, but when we came out like we did we realized that we are together and we are all on the same page. Sometimes it just takes that first game to really know where you stand as a team."

Schwartz's value certainly isn't confined

to her leadership. She also provides valuable back row work when she subs in for right side hitter Licht.

"She's doing everything we're asking of her," Cook said. "She's gotten better, and we need that. She's one of those players in a lot of our big games she'll run three or four points with her serve. We want her to have that mentality."

"In 2006 it was the same way. We basically won a game against Stanford on her serve in the national championship match. That's our reference for her, to come in and run three points."

Schwartz also wants to hold things together in the back row. When that's not working – which hasn't happened too often this season – Schwartz takes it to heart.

"When the team is struggling passing or when the defense is struggling, you take that very personally being a defensive player," Schwartz said. "When it is good, you feel OK about that but you're consistently thinking about what you can do to improve that, what little things can you do to make that even a little bit better."

## ALL BLOCKS NOT EQUAL

Lindsey Licht's blocks are a little more intimidating than the average block. Licht, at 6-5, has a knack for making the dramatic block that can deflate the opposing team. She had several such blocks earlier this month at Missouri, but her biggest was one against Texas A&M that had her teammates gushing after the match.

"Those are game-changing blocks when she blocks the ball," Cook said. "Some of those blocks are worth two or three points because they're so dramatic. It's not like Sydney (Anderson) putting a hand up and the ball falls on the line. Those make those hitters think and they'll start making errors."

## COOK TRAVELS TO EWING

On Oct. 17 Cook got a chance to travel to Ewing, Neb., to watch a high school volleyball match. Although he couldn't mention players by name, he was there to watch Husker recruit Hayley Thrasher play for Ewing.

Cook said it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

"It was homecoming for volleyball, home coming for football right after that," Cook said. "The gym was packed. Basically the whole town was out. It was just an incredible experience to go out there and be a part of it. If you have not done something like that – especially if you're in the sports business – you have to do it."

## OFF TO WORLDS OF FUN

On Oct. 18 during their bye week, the three Husker seniors – Larson, Gates and Schwartz – made a road trip to Worlds of Fun in Kansas City. Gates said it was fun, even when they were spooked a few times in the haunted house.

"We were kids again, but it's a long day," Gates said. "That's when you realize how old you are when you can't make it through a full day at Worlds of Fun." **N**

### 2008 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE (18-0, 10-0 BIG 12)

Aug. 29-31	Runza/AVCA Showcase
Aug. 29	*Stanford, W, 3-0
Aug. 31	*USC, W, 3-1
Sept. 1	Oral Roberts, W 3-0
Sept. 5-6	Cal Poly Invite
Sept. 5	Tulane, W, 3-0
Sept. 6	Cal Poly, W, 3-0
Sept. 12-13	Ameritas Players Challenge
Sept. 12	LSU, W, 3-0
Sept. 13	New Mexico, W, 3-0
Sept. 17	at Kansas State, W, 3-1
Sept. 20	Texas, W, 3-1
Sept. 24	Kansas, W, 3-1
Sept. 27	at Iowa State, W, 3-1
Oct. 1	at Texas Tech, W, 3-0
Oct. 4	Colorado, W, 3-0
Oct. 5	*Creighton, W, 3-0
Oct. 8	Oklahoma, W, 3-0
Oct. 12	at Missouri, W, 3-0
Oct. 15	Baylor, W, 3-0
Oct. 22	Texas A&M, W, 3-0
Oct. 25	at Oklahoma, 7 p.m.
Oct. 29	at Colorado, 8 p.m.
Nov. 1	Iowa State, 7 p.m.
Nov. 5	at Texas A&M, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 8	Kansas State, TBA
Nov. 12	Missouri, 7 p.m.
Nov. 15	at Kansas, TBA
Nov. 19	at Texas, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 22	Texas Tech, 7 p.m.
Nov. 29	at Baylor, 7 p.m.
Dec. 5-6	NCAA 1st/2nd Rounds, TBA
Dec. 12-13	*NCAA Regionals
Dec. 18-20	*NCAA Semifinals, Finals
	* at Qwest Center, Omaha



# Basketball

COOKIE MILLER

BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

## Huskers' new look may include five guards

**T**his isn't the first time Doc Sadler has faced the task of coaching a height-challenged men's basketball team.

The third-year Nebraska coach recalls one other time, when he led the Arkansas-Fort Smith team in the junior college ranks.

"I loved it," Sadler said. "The difference is my post guy was 6-1 there."

OK, it's not quite that bad for the Huskers. It's not really an ideal situation, either.

Nebraska, which will face Marquette in a Nov. 1 closed scrimmage, began practice with no healthy or eligible players taller than 6-8.

At least now, Sadler joked, nobody's bugging him with questions about big men.

"Everybody knows we don't have one," he said, "so they quit asking about it."

That, of course, doesn't solve the height issue, which is why Nebraska fans will likely see a different style of basketball this season.

Don't be surprised if Sadler, like he did that season at UA-Fort Smith, plays with five guards.

"We're going to try some new things. It's going to be fun," Sadler said. "I'm excited. This team is going to be totally different. I think it's going to be a team that's going to be fun to coach. I think it's going to be a fun team to watch play."

Nebraska has Ryan Anderson, Sek Henry, Cookie Miller, Steve Harley, Ade Dagunduro



and Paul Velandar returning with extensive experience at the guard and wing positions. Add redshirts Toney McCray and Brandon Richardson into the mix, along with true freshman guard Eshaunte Jones, and Sadler's plan is understandable.

"I think it's important for me to put the five best players out there," he said, "regardless of what size they are."

Five guards, though, doesn't necessarily mean a bunch of 3-point shots – especially not with the 3-point line extending one foot beginning this season.

"I think a good offense is an offense that gets to the free-throw line," Sadler said. "It's going to give us opportunities to drive the basketball. We do have some guys who can shoot it, but at the same time, we have some guys whose strengths aren't necessarily the 3-point shot, but driving."

Certain players – Anderson and Velandar, for instance – will have the green light from 3-point range, provided they're open.

"Certain guys can shoot it, and some of them can't," Sadler said. "That's what practice is for, to decide who those guys are."

Sadler must also determine a frontcourt, too, regardless of height problems. Forwards include 6-8 Chris Balham, who's limited in practice and games because of bad knees, and 6-8 Alonzo Edwards, who redshirted last season.

Another redshirt, Alex Chapman, is the team's tallest player at 6-9, but he's recovering from knee surgery and may not be full strength by the beginning of the season.

"Alex Chapman is struggling," Sadler said. "He's going to have a lot of catching up to do."

Freshman Christopher Niemann is 6-11 but was ruled ineligible this season by the NCAA. That hasn't stopped Niemann in practice, however.

"He's much better than I thought he was," Sadler said. "I didn't realize he's as good offensively as he is."

There's also 6-11 forward Jorge Diaz, who has remained committed

to Nebraska but is waiting to take his Test Of English as a Foreign Language. With a passing TOEFL score, Diaz, who lives in Puerto Rico, could join the team in December and be eligible to play immediately.

It's possible, though, that Diaz could redshirt and have four full seasons of eligibility beginning next season. That decision would likely depend on several factors, including Diaz's playing condition when he arrives in Lincoln.

By that time, Sadler will have a general idea of how his team is managing without big guys.

"If you look across the league, I'm not sure the league is going to be as big as it's been, either," Sadler said. "You look at the different teams and the lineups they could put on the floor, it could be fun."

## SIDELINED

Injuries have already slowed Doc Sadler's basketball team. Within the first couple of days of practice, redshirted freshman Brandon Richardson injured his ankle. While the severity of the injury isn't certain, Richardson did miss a couple of days, Sadler said.

True freshman Eshaunte Jones also missed a day after severely jamming his thumb, Sadler said. Jones is already playing through an ankle injury that Sadler said can't get any worse.

Also, freshman Christopher Niemann missed practice after coming down with the flu.

## GRIFFIN HONORED, HURT

Nebraska senior Kelsey Griffin earned a spot on the All-Big 12 preseason women's basketball team picked by the league's coaches.

The 6-2 forward joined preseason Big 12 player of the year Courtney Paris from Oklahoma, Kansas State's Shalee Lehning, Oklahoma State's Andrea Riley and Texas A&M's Takia Starks.

That announcement came a day after Nebraska coach Connie Yori said Griffin may be forced to redshirt this season because of an injury.

Yori said the bruised ankle bone that kept Griffin from participating in fall conditioning has become a serious enough issue that she put the possibility of Griffin redshirting this season at 40 percent. Griffin was injured in a pickup game when she landed on another player's foot.

A two-time first-team All-Big 12 selection, Griffin averaged 15.3 points and 7.2 rebounds per game last season, while leading the Huskers to a 21-12 overall record, a 9-7 league mark, and the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

For her career, Griffin has 1,348 points and 665 rebounds. She is also ranks in the top 10 on the Huskers' career list with 68 blocked shots. **N**

## 2008-09 WOMEN'S PRESEASON ALL-BIG 12 TEAM

NAME, SCHOOL	HT.	YR.	POS.	HOMETOWN
Kelsey Griffin (Nebraska)	6-2	Sr.	F	Eagle River, Alaska
Courtney Paris (Oklahoma)	6-4	Sr.	C	Piedmont, Calif.
Shalee Lehning (Kansas State)	5-9	Sr.	G	Sublette, Kan.
Takia Starks (Texas A&M)	5-8	Sr.	G	Houston, Texas
Andrea Riley (Oklahoma State)	5-5	Jr.	G	Dallas, Texas

### Preseason Player of the Year

Courtney Paris (Oklahoma)	6-4	Sr.	C	Piedmont, Calif.
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### Preseason Newcomer of the Year

Tanisha Smith (Texas A&M)	6-0	Jr.	G/F	Kansas City, Mo.
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### Preseason Co-Freshman of the Year

Whitney Hand (Oklahoma)	6-1	G	Fr.	Fort Worth, Texas
Tyra White (Texas A&M)	6-0	RFr.	G	Kansas City, Mo.

**Honorable Mention (listed alphabetically by school):** Rachel Allison (Baylor), Jessica Morrow (Baylor), Alison Lacey (Iowa State), Brittainy Raven (Texas), Danielle Gant (Texas A&M)



# FROM THE ARCHIVES

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNL ARCHIVES



**DOUBLE UP** - Ed Weir was Nebraska's first two-time All-American, earning a place on Walter Camp's team in 1924 and 1925. He also was the Cornhuskers' captain those two seasons for teams coached by Fred Dawson and then Ernie Bearg. The 6-0, 190-pound Weir played tackle but also occasionally carried the ball and caught passes on offense. He was among the first to "red-dog" on defense. He would set up slightly off the line of scrimmage and with a quick first step split offensive linemen and bolt into the backfield. As a result, he was often double-teamed, freeing up linebacker Harold Hutchinson to make the tackle. After a 34-6 loss against Notre Dame and its Four Horsemen at South Bend, Ind., in 1924, Fighting Irish coach Knute Rockne visited the Nebraska locker room to shake Weir's hand. Rockne told Weir: "You're the greatest tackle and the cleanest player I have ever watched." Weir played in victories against Notre Dame in 1923 (14-7) and 1925 (17-0) as well as against the legendary "Galloping Ghost" at Illinois, Red Grange.



## BOB DEVANEY'S FIRST SEASON

Game 9, Nov. 17, 1962 at Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb.

### Nebraska 14, Oklahoma State 0

Oklahoma State	0	0	0	0	-	0
Nebraska	14	0	0	0	-	14

(N) Bill Thornton 8 run (Dennis Claridge run)

(N) Claridge 6 run (pass failed)

Attendance: 34,329



Nebraska scored on its first two possessions, driving 76 yards and 62 yards (with the aid of a roughing the kicker penalty), and that was enough as the defense limited Oklahoma State to five first downs. The Aggies went into the game as the best passing team in the Big Eight. But they completed only 4 of 12 for 31 yards with two interceptions. Nebraska ran 85 plays to their 37. Cornhusker quarterback Dennis Claridge passed for 125 yards, all in the first half, to break the school single-season record. The previous record was 706 yards by Fran Nagle in 1950. Claridge increased his total to 745. A helicopter flew low over the field at Memorial Stadium the morning of the game in an attempt to dry muddy spots, which also were covered with sawdust. The temperature never rose above freezing.

**DEVANEY:** "This was one of our best games of the year. Oklahoma State came back tough the second half and we stopped them. We have a chance now to win the (Big Eight) championship, and a victory over Oklahoma will give us at least a tie."

**DID YOU KNOW?** On Thursday night before the game, 20-year-old Cassius Clay knocked out an aging Archie Moore in the fourth round of a heavyweight fight at the Los Angeles Sports Arena. Clay had predicted the knockout would occur in the fourth round. On Friday night, Wilt Chamberlain scored a Madison Square Garden record 73 points in the San Francisco Warriors' 127-111 victory against the New York Knicks.

## TOM OSBORNE'S FIRST SEASON

Game 9, Nov. 10, 1973 at Memorial Stadium

### Nebraska 31, Iowa State 7

Iowa State	0	0	7	0	-	7
Nebraska	14	10	0	7	-	31

(N) Dave Humm 1 run (Rich Sanger kick)

(N) Ritch Bahe 25 pass Humm (Sanger kick)

(N) Sanger 49 field goal

(N) Frosty Anderson 67 pass Humm (Sanger kick)

(IS) Buddy Hardeman 1 run (Tom Goedjen kick)

(N) Steve Runty 1 run (Sanger kick)

Attendance: 76,503



Nebraska improved to 7-1-1, the same record as the previous season after nine games, and positioned itself for a bowl bid. Although bids couldn't be announced for another week, speculation was that at least three and possibly four bowls were interested in the Cornhuskers, and that they would accept one from the Cotton Bowl - one of the big four on New Year's Day. The first two touchdowns were set up by fumble recoveries, both at the Iowa State 21-yard line.

The first was forced by defensive end Steve Manstedt and recovered by defensive tackle Ron Pruitt. On the ensuing kickoff, linebacker John Starkebaum forced a fumble and defensive end Tom Pate recovered. Nebraska was never challenged.

**OSBORNE:** "Iowa State had a good ball club, in many ways better than the one that tied us over there last year. So I was pleased that we were able to take advantage of those early breaks."

**DID YOU KNOW?** On the Wednesday before the game, President Richard Nixon announced that he had no intention of resigning as a result of the Watergate investigation. Bean bag chairs sold for \$17.95 to \$39.95 in Lincoln. And Saturday night television included All in the Family, MASH and the Carol Burnett Show on CBS, as well as the Lawrence Welk Show on stations in Lincoln and Omaha.









## THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

# Huskers make it interesting

**APPROPRIATELY ENOUGH**, the record-breaking reception produced a touchdown, and not just any touchdown but the one that gave Nebraska a come-from-behind lead.

The reception was Nate Swift's eighth of the game, and 144th of his career, breaking a record set by Johnny Rodgers during the season in which he won the Heisman Trophy, 36 years ago.

The particulars of the pass were these. The Cornhuskers faced second-and-6 from the Baylor 9-yard line, late in the third quarter, trailing 20-17. And Joe Ganz threw it.

Swift, whose block had helped Niles Paul gain 4 yards with a pass on the previous play, caught the ball in the left front corner of the north end zone, just across the goal line.

He then leaped and collided with offensive guard Matt Slauson in celebration.

Teammates congratulated him as he left the field, and they continued to congratulate him after he got to the sideline, everyone except fellow senior wide receiver Todd Peterson. "He told me he wasn't going to congratulate me until the end of the game, if we won," Swift said.

The Cornhuskers not only held the lead, they increased it, winning 32-20.

Swift's next reception, less than 3 minutes into the fourth quarter, produced a 53-yard gain and another touchdown. And after the game, Peterson congratulated him.

"So it was pretty cool," said Swift.

"It's a great honor just to be named up there with those guys, to be put on a list like that, anything at Nebraska (that) you're on an all-time list is a great feeling and a great honor."

The record wouldn't have meant much in the short term, however, had Nebraska lost. With the passing of time, it would have. But context is everything right now for Bo Pelini's team.

Expectations for the Cornhuskers were on the rise following an overtime loss at Texas Tech and a 35-7 victory at Iowa State. And expectations continue to rise, although the halftime deficit erased by Swift's record-breaking reception was something of a reality check.

Nebraska was supposed to win against Baylor, which didn't win a Big 12 game last season. And when the Bears regained the lead at halftime by responding with a touchdown less than 2 minutes after falling behind 17-14, the Memorial Stadium crowd of 85,104 seemed a bit anxious.

After all, the frustrations of the recent past still aren't far from the surface.

Pelini began his post-game interview with a rhetorical question.

"We make it interesting, don't we?" he said.

That was particularly true in the first 30 minutes, and remember, Cornhusker fans didn't come to the game looking for "interesting" in quite the way they found it during the first half. They came expecting a blowout, with consistent execution, and with reserves finishing up.

"We did some bone-head things to start the game," Pelini said. "Once again, we were our own worst enemy in that first half, two personal foul penalties, a late hit and one other penalty. But I liked the way the kids hung together. To a man, the whole football

team, we didn't feel like we played well in the first half. And I didn't have to say much at halftime because they came together as a group, and they said, 'We'll go out and win this football game.' They took control of the situation.

"They were not happy with how we executed. And we fixed it."

Apparently, middle linebacker Phillip Dillard and safety Larry Asante, in particular, took control at halftime. After the offense and defense met with coaches, "everybody kind of huddled around us, and we told the offense, 'We got your back,'" said Asante. "All the coaches can do is call the plays. It's up to us to go out on the field and execute, so we told the offense we had their backs and they said they had our backs. We just went out there and played together as a family."

Early in the week, Swift was asked if he was uncomfortable answering the unavoidable questions about his pursuit of Rodgers' record. He was, Swift said, adding: "I almost kind of want to get it over with so I don't really have to talk about it that much. I really don't like talking about breaking records or chasing people or anything like that because that's not what I'm about."

"I want to get that win and do whatever's best for the team."

Scoring a touchdown, and then another, was best on this particular day.

So breaking the record was win-win, for Swift and his team.

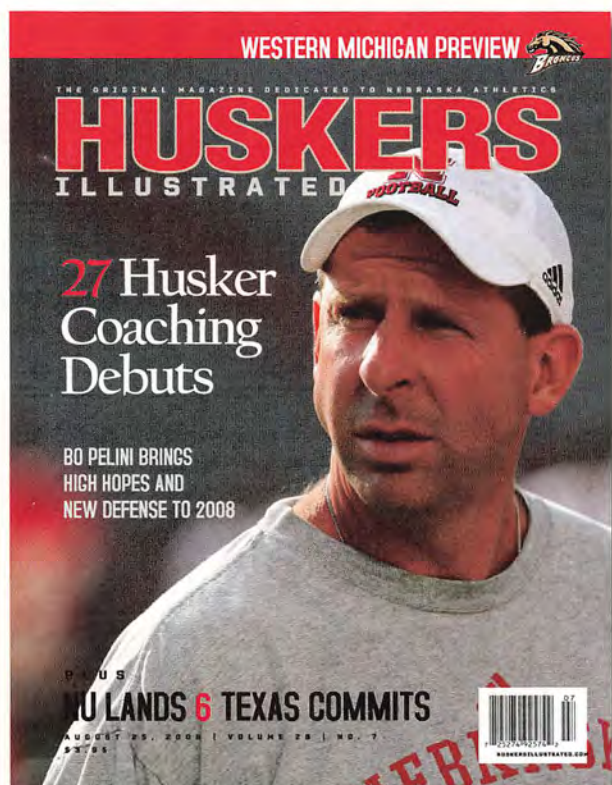
And that made it interesting, in the right way. **N**



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